

ON GROZNY'S HO CHI MINH TRAIL

Richard Beeston with the guerrillas
PAGE 7



ME AND MY MARRIAGE VOWS

Quentin Letts ties the knot
PAGE 12



STYLE

It's cool to be a dad
PAGE 10



WIN ONE OF 40 PANASONIC CORDLESS PHONES

PAGE 12

RACHEL CAMPBELL-JOHNSTON

meets the rainforest drug addicts
PAGE 11



Vicar is killed outside church

By KATE ALDERSON, RUTH GLEDHILL AND JOANNA BALE

A YOUNG vicar regarded as a potential leader of the Church of England was stabbed to death yesterday after giving advice to a man with a history of violence.

The Rev Christopher Gray, 32, was left lying in a pool of blood by his assailant, who then tried to abduct a young mother from her home near by, before fleeing in her car.

The ferocity of the attack outside St Margaret's Church, Anfield, Liverpool, prompted the police to take the unusual step of naming Terence Storey — who has a history of criminal violence — as the man they believe to be the

Monday and about 40 minutes later he was heard speaking to another man whose voice became raised. Then a cry was heard.

"Witnesses saw a man run from the scene outside the church near the vicarage and went out to see what had happened. They found Christopher Gray dying outside his home," Mr Davies said. He had been stabbed through the heart.

"The assailant went to a house in nearby Belmont Road. He was refused access by the lady in the house, but forced his way in. The lady was threatened with a knife and her car keys were taken by him. The man attempted to abduct the lady, who fought him off. He made off in her Ford Escort."

Last night, as police continued the search for Storey and the red car — number M872 YFM — the Right Rev David Sheppard paid tribute to the young victim. Bishop Sheppard, who ordained Fr Christopher three years ago, said that he was an exceptionally bright man who had demonstrated the potential to become a bishop. "The death of this much-valued priest is a tremendous loss to me personally, and to all of us in the diocese. At 32 years of age, one of the ablest priests of his generation, Christopher Gray had very special gifts of scholarship."

Fr Christopher — who had achieved a double first "with congratulations" at Oxford University, spoke ten languages and was a gifted author — had only recently written that a priest should be ready to die for his parishioners. In contributing a chapter to a book edited by Fr George Guiver of Mirfield College, he compared the priest to a shepherd saying: "The supreme act of the shepherd is to lay down his life for the sheep." Priests, he continued, are called to be "people who grow to be like Christ in their faithful service of their flocks; even to the point of sacrificing their own lives."

"Priests are to know their people; to foster their unity; to



Gray: one of the bright hopes of his generation

killer. Detective Chief Inspector Elnore Davies said that Fr Christopher had been helping Storey over the past few weeks and that Storey had launched a completely unprovoked attack on the priest.

He would now probably seek shelter from friends in the criminal fraternity, but Mr Davies said: "Whether they are willing to help him after this atrocious crime, we very much doubt. He is guilty of a very violent, malicious attack on Mr Gray."

Fr Christopher, described yesterday by the Bishop of Liverpool as one of the brightest hopes of his generation, was killed shortly after he returned home from a function entertaining foreign visitors to Liverpool. He got back to the vicarage at midnight on



The Learjet yesterday after it had crashed off the airfield and into a van. The RAF has refused to install arresters at the end of the runway to stop planes from overshooting

Four escape as jet crashes into van on A40

By HARVEY ELLIOTT AND RUSSELL JENKINS

FOUR people escaped death yesterday when an executive jet overshoot a runway as it landed at RAF Northolt and crashed into a van on a dual carriageway.

The plane's passenger, Lisa Hogan, 25, an Irish actress friend of John Cleese, escaped with shock and an injured ankle after the Learjet tore through the airfield fence and crashed on to the A40.

Gary Jewel, 33, the van driver, escaped with little more than cuts and bruises. Firemen took 40 minutes to cut him from the wreckage and took him by air ambulance to hospital in Ealing, where he was kept overnight. "I am happy to be alive," he said later.

The aircraft's Spanish pilot received serious head injuries and his co-pilot was treated for shock. The accident led to huge traffic jams which lasted all day.

The Learjet, which was broken in two, was carrying Ms Hogan from Palma, Majorca, to Pinewood, where she was

due to rehearse a scene for the new John Cleese film *Fierce Creatures*. "She rang the production team to say that she had been in an accident and had injured her leg, but we understood that she has now been released from hospital and is basically OK," said a spokesman for the company.

Irish-born Ms Hogan, who has no previous acting experience, has landed a key role in the film which is a sequel to the comedy film *A Fish Called Wanda*. In it she plays an assistant to a sea-lion keeper.



Jewel: trapped in van after being hit by jet

Ronnie Corbett. The jet was owned by the Zaragoza air taxi firm Mac Aviation, and flown by Santiago Morin, 33, and José Rosal.

All seemed to be well at 10 am, as the aircraft made a normal approach over Ruislip. It crossed the runway threshold but then appeared to waver from side to side.

Three teenagers who saw the crash said it was a miracle no one was killed. The teenagers were cycling nearby when they saw the twin-engined jet swaying wildly

from side to side seconds before it smashed through the perimeter fence.

Euan Goddard, 15, from South Ruislip, said: "It looked as first as though it was landing. Then I noticed something was wrong when it started tipping from side to side quite wildly."

The Northolt runway is long enough for all but the heaviest commercial jets, and almost twice as much as a Learjet should need. The weather was fine, with little wind.

The pilot was in a stable condition at Hillingdon Hospital last night.

David Robinson, divisional officer for the London Fire and Civil Defence Authority, said it was "remarkable" that nobody died in the accident.

"If this had been a plane fully loaded with fuel going out in the middle of the rush hour, it could have had much more serious consequences," he said. "It is really remarkable that anybody could get out of this alive."

Mr Jewel, who has two young daughters, lives in Reading and has worked as an

area sales representative for Clive Waldron, a searing renovation company, for a year.

A spokeswoman for the firm said: "It's an absolute miracle. It is just unbelievable that he wasn't badly hurt or even killed. We didn't know how badly injured he was, and we had to phone his wife and tell her he had been hit by a plane."

The RAF has refused to implement official safety recommendations that would

have equipped the runway at RAF Northolt with a gravel "arrestor bed" to prevent aircraft from careering on to the main road, as happened yesterday. Military airfields are not subject to civilian control.

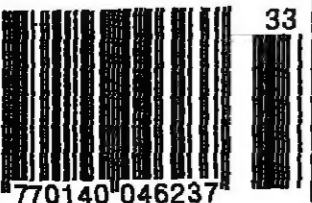
Northolt is the base of 32 (The Royal) Squadron and London's key VIP aerodrome. It handles over 6,000 civilian flights a year. Its runway heads straight towards the A40.

UN envoy dies

Sir Anthony Parsons, Britain's former ambassador to the United Nations and to Iran, has died aged 73. He was at the UN during the Falklands War and became a key foreign policy adviser to Margaret Thatcher. Page 15

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Government will support ban on handguns despite Tory MPs' vote

By PHILIP WEBSTER AND RICHARD FORD

A BAN on the private possession of handguns in Britain appeared inevitable last night after the Government is poised to take a different line after the Cullen report into Dunblane.

As public and political outrage resurfaced over the refusal of Tory MPs on the Commons home affairs committee to ban guns in the wake of the Dunblane massacre, senior ministers moved swiftly to distance themselves from the committee's report. They stressed that it represented neither government nor Tory policy and pledged that they would not "shirk" from doing

whatever was necessary. In the clearest possible indication that the Government is poised to take a different line after the Cullen report into Dunblane.



"It's all right for you, you're used to a bow and arrow"

David Maclean, Home Office Minister of State, said the fact that some Conservatives had taken a view in the committee "does not preclude them from coming to or agreeing with the Government's view when it is finally pronounced."

Mr Maclean said: "We must be careful we do not give the impression that the independent select committee view is Conservative policy or government policy."

John Major, strongly supported by Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, is understood to be preparing to "bite the bullet" if Cullen recommends a ban on handguns. He was angry that the Tory MPs had taken such a firm position against the ban. Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, though less enthusiastic about an outright ban, is

understood to accept the inevitability of having to carry the Cullen recommendations into force.

The report was condemned by bereaved Dunblane parents and senior police. The Association of Chief Police Officers pronounced itself "extremely disappointed" by the report's rejection of even a partial ban on the possession of handguns.

Sir James Sharples, chief constable of Merseyside, said: "The Association of Chief Police Officers strongly argued that if the use of these weapons was restricted to lawful sporting activities and to 22 calibre, it would effectively remove from circulation 90 per cent of existing legally-

Continued on page 2, col 1



Crocodile who came for lunch

The skull of a 20ft crocodile that provided lunch for an even more fearsome reptile 165 million years ago has been found in a gravel pit in Wiltshire. Embedded in the eye socket is a tooth belonging to an even bigger creature. The geologist who found it, Dr Neville Hollingsworth, said: "This is the equivalent of winning the archaeological lottery."

Leading article, page 13

TV & RADIO	42, 43	LETTERS	13	ARTS	30-32	SPORT	39-42, 44
WEATHER	22	OBITUARIES	15	CHESS & BRIDGE	41	STYLE	10
CROSSWORDS	22, 44	DAVID SELBOURNE	12	COURT & SOCIAL	14	LAW REPORT	33

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Dream of a healthy nation is foiled by fat of the land

By DOMINIC KENNEDY, SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

HEAVY-drinking women, schoolchildren who smoke and the overweight of both sexes are ruining Stephen Dorrell's drive to create a healthy nation. Only 11 of the 27 targets set by the Department of Health to reduce premature death and avoidable sickness by promoting sensible lifestyles look certain to be reached.

The solitary success so far has been a reduction in gonorrhoea to fewer than 50,000 new cases a year, only a fifth of the 1970s level, attributed to the increase in condom use. This should also reduce sexual transmission of HIV.

One target has already been missed: a drop in regular smoking by schoolchildren aged 11 to 15 from 8 per cent in 1988 to 6 per cent by 1994. Instead, 12 per cent had taken up the habit.

However, the Health Secretary is refusing to consider a ban on cigarette advertising, arguing that countries that have done so have reduced tobacco consumption less than Britain has. He said it was up to the public to change lifestyles, following government health education.

The National Audit Office today reports limited progress in achieving the aims of *The Health of the Nation* White Paper of 1992. The ambitious strategy to reduce coronary

heart disease, strokes, cancer, mental illness, sexually transmitted diseases and accidents was introduced by Virginia Bottomley when she was Health Secretary, and helped to form her reputation among critics as a bossy nanny to the nation.

Teams from the National Health Service formulated "action plans" to improve education, screening and preventive techniques. "Challenging but realistic" targets were set to be reached by dates between 1994 and 2005.

But despite the exhortations of politicians and doctors, Sir John Bourn, the Comptroller and Auditor General, reports that Britons' behaviour is becoming worse in three areas: obesity in men and women, drinking by women and smoking by the young.

For seven other targets,



progress cannot be monitored because there are too few figures available. Some progress is being made towards six targets. Another 11 are making "good progress", including the reduction of coronary heart disease, strokes, breast and lung cancer, suicides and accidents.

The Government set targets on obesity because it increases the likelihood of coronary heart disease, strokes and illnesses including diabetes. Ministers want only 8 per cent of women and 6 per cent of men, aged 16 to 64, to be overweight by 2005: the same proportion as in 1980. But instead figures since then have risen to 16 per cent of women and 13 per cent of men.

Alcohol targets were set because too much drink raises the blood pressure, increasing the risk of stroke, and is blamed for liver cirrhosis, cancers and road traffic accidents. Although the proportion of women drinking the equivalent of 14 glasses of wine or more per week was supposed to fall to 7 per cent by 2005, it has risen to 13 per cent. There has been no fall in men's drinking.

Mr Dorrell said: "The Government can ensure the maximum possible degree of education so that individuals make informed choices about their own lives."

Fearsome biter was bitten but not chewed

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

THE skull of a crocodile that provided lunch for an even more fearsome reptile 165 million years old has been found in a gravel pit in Wiltshire.

Embedded in the left eye socket of the crocodile's skull is a tooth belonging to an even bigger creature, probably a plesiosaur or a piosaur. The body is missing, presumed eaten. The skull was discovered by chance by Dr Neville Hollingsworth, a geologist, as he searched the quarry for other fossilised remains.

Days earlier, a team of international geologists had clambered over it but the crocodile emerged only after rain washed away surface clay, revealing a large snout sticking out of the rock.

"I couldn't believe what I was seeing," Dr Hollingsworth said. "I knew what it was instantly but I was speechless for a minute. This is the equivalent of winning the archaeological lottery. With the other fossilised marine remains that we are finding, we have a marine Jurassic Park here."

The skull is thought to be the best example of its kind in the world. It belongs to a marine crocodile, *Metriohynchus superciliosus*, which would have swum in the warm tropical waters using paddles instead of legs.

Fully grown, it would have been 20ft long, but it appears to have met an untimely end in the mouth of a predator. "Its body may have provided dinner for a fellow reptile higher up in the food chain," Dr Hollingsworth said.

Although plesiosaurs fed mostly on fish, some were certainly big enough to tackle a crocodile. Piososaurs were even more formidable, whale-sized reptiles up to 40ft long that fed on other large carnivores, including plesiosaurs.

Scientists have been able to date the crocodile skull to within half a million years using a geochemical process that measures the decay of the surrounding clay. The crocodile lived at a time when



Dr Hollingsworth with crocodile skull and, below, the plesiosaur, a suspect



much of northern Europe was covered by a warm and shallow subtropical sea.

The land was occupied by marauding dinosaurs, but *Metriohynchus* shared the waters with a diverse array of marine life. The Oxford clay

unique to the area is proving a rich source of these creatures, yielding better preserved fossils than anything else of equivalent age in Europe.

Last week, a group of research scientists working in the clay found the remains of

fossilised squids unique to northern Europe. The squids were discovered with their original soft parts preserved in phosphate, including ink sacs complete with ink.

An area 20 miles from the site was originally excavated in the 1840s as workers dug embankments for the Great Western Railway. Fossils were removed and are in museums worldwide, but the site was soon covered and forgotten. Now the area is reaping even richer finds.

"The crocodile skull in particular is such an exciting discovery. It is a window back into the Jurassic sea," Dr Hollingsworth said. "It could be a treasure. We may yet find fossils that are unique or unknown."

Rail body criticises crash line

The poor condition of the West Coast main line from London to Glasgow, scene of last week's fatal crash at Watford, came under attack yesterday from a passenger watchdog.

Underinvestment in the 400-mile track had resulted in "unacceptable" levels of reliability and punctuality, the Rail Users' Consultative Committee for northwest England said in a report.

Only 76 per cent of InterCity services between London and Glasgow arrived within ten minutes of their scheduled times, well below the 90 per cent target set by the Passenger's Charter. "This highlights the continuing need for modernisation of the line, which seems to have been slowed by privatisation," the report said.

Boy's bomb cache

The Army has destroyed a cache of bombs made by a boy, 15, at home in Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire. Police found rockets, weedkillers, bombs, gunpowder and bangs. The boy and his father were arrested and bailed. A spokesman said the boy had become interested in making bombs after studies at school.

Ferries halted

Ferry services between the Orkney Islands were halted yesterday by the first of a series of one-day strikes by crews in a dispute over working hours. The principal ferry link to the Scottish mainland was not affected. Members of the Rail, Maritime and Transport union are planning a second strike for Sunday.

£900,000 award

Naomi Walsby, 12, was awarded £900,000 damages for the severe head injuries she received in 1989 when an amusement machine fell on her at the Elstree Moat House, Hotel at Borehamwood, Hertfordshire. She was left with serious mobility and communication problems and is dependent on care.

Fishing fine

A Danish fishing skipper was fined £20,540 at Stornoway Sheriff Court for having an excess secondary catch while fishing for pout off Barra Head in the Hebrides. Vagn Holm-Neilsen, 50, admitted taking 18 tonnes of herring on board the *Mette Holm*, exceeding the permissible 5 per cent "by-catch".

Bad tidings

Executives at Carlton UK have been banned from sending company Christmas cards. Clive Jones, chief executive of the television company, told staff that he would prefer to spend the money on programme-making or marketing and that anyone breaking his rule would be subject to "the usual revenge".

Riot case closed

The Crown Prosecution Service has ruled out a prosecution for alleged inflammatory remarks made before the Brixton riot last December. The riot followed the death of Wayne Douglas, a burglary suspect. Senior police officers are understood to be in agreement with the CPS decision.

Happy haddock

The future is looking rosy for a solitary Norwegian red haddock called Sven at the Sea Life Centre at St Andrews, Fife. The fisherman who caught Sven in 1994 has landed a female, to be called Helga. The fish, bright red in colour and rare in Scottish waters, will be introduced at the centre.

NHS says patients suffering as Minister achieves cost cuts

By OUR SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

NHS MANAGERS complained yesterday that services have suffered after Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, announced that his promised cut of 5 per cent in management costs has been achieved and claimed it would release £103 million for patient care.

One trust had to delay the appointment of a co-ordinator to improve the use of operating theatres and another was unable to employ a develop-

ment manager to implement an agreed mental health strategy.

The National Association of Health Authorities and Trusts said it was shortsighted of Mr Dorrell to pursue "downward cost pressure" without looking at the value that managers could bring. The NHS Trust Federation said managers were being turned into scapegoats for the increase in bureaucracy imposed by the Department of Health in the past. The trade union Unison said that far too much man-

agement time was still being wasted keeping the internal market going.

Mr Dorrell exceeded his target by cutting 5.2 per cent in cash terms, (8 per cent taking account of inflation) of the bill paid by trusts to managers and consultants. The spiralling budget for managers of £1.3 billion in England last year was already being looked upon by Labour as a source of extra money that could be diverted into patient care after the election without increasing expenditure.

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Crater may reveal how dinosaurs became extinct

By NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

BRITISH scientists will set out to solve a 65-million-year-old mystery next month.

They will measure a crater in the Yucatan Peninsula in Mexico that is believed to have been created by the impact of the meteorite or comet that killed the dinosaurs.

The crater, the largest known on Earth, is buried under up to three kilometres of more recent sedimentary rock. It could be anything between 180 and 280 kilometres across. Dr Dave Snyder of the Department of Earth Sciences at Cambridge said.

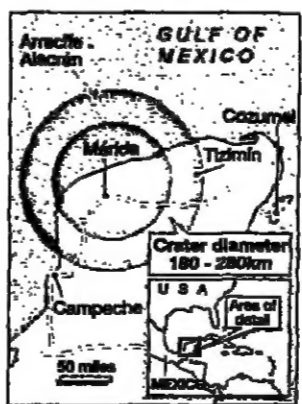
If the crater lies at the low end of the range, the object that made it was probably too small to have caused mass extinctions. At the top end, it was "undoubtedly large enough", Dr Snyder said. If an object of this size crashed on Oxford, its crater would swallow everything from Cardiff across to London, and Derby down to Southampton.

The team, which includes Jo Morgan and Mike Warner from Imperial College, and scientists from the US, Canada and Mexico, will use ways

of measuring earthquakes to size the crater. Dr Snyder will be aboard the *Sigma*, an exploration ship fitted with 48 compressed-air chambers capable of making a loud blast.

Onshore in Mexico, the Imperial College team will record the sounds and measure how they are reflected from different layers in the Earth's crust.

Dr Snyder said: "The density of the rock and the boundaries between different types will affect how these waves travel. Because the area of the crater covers both land and sea, we'll need to use ocean-bottom seismometers and land-based seismic stations."



Gravity surveys have shown the existence of a ring-shaped feature underground, but the seismic results should confirm that it is an impact crater.

There are already clues suggesting that the dinosaurs' extinction coincided with an impact from space. The most persuasive is the discovery in rocks of the appropriate age a layer rich in iridium, an element rare on Earth but commoner in meteorites and comets.

But proving that the Yucatan was the point of impact of an object big enough to account for the global changes that killed the dinosaurs would be a big step forward. If it was, the debris of the impact would have been enough to block out sunlight for tens of years.

Dr Snyder said that limestone sediment in the waters of the Caribbean would have been vaporised and, mixed with the moisture in the air, would have caused acid rain, killing off the plankton in the seas. Death would have spread up the food chain.

The team expects to make its measurements at the end of next month, and take about a year to analyse them.

When a drinks party can be a real pain

SUFFERERS from untreated gout know that to skip breakfast and lunch before attending a drinks party on the way home from the office is as good a recipe as any for precipitating an attack of joint pain the next day. As they hobble to work next morning they won't need any other reminder than the swollen, painful and stiff joints that starvation—even for a short time—alcohol and gout are an unhappy combination.

Other patients have a form of arthritis that is directly related to drinking some types of alcohol, in particular red wine or beer. One financier developed swollen joints in his hands every time he drank wine. Provided he was abstemious he had no arthritis. Interestingly, now the patient has retired from the City he is able to manage the odd half-



bottle without any trouble. The effect of alcohol on gout and on the joints of the very rare person who is allergic to alcohol are perhaps of less significance than its action on rheumatoid arthritis.

This is the form of the disease that causes inflammation of the articular surfaces of the joints and which, if it is not treated, may result in deformity. The patient with rheumatoid arthritis also generally feels very unwell.

Researchers at the University of Washington, in Seattle, US, have studied the effect of alcohol—whether wine, beer

or spirits—on the incidence of rheumatoid arthritis in women. This research has come up with a surprising finding. Although obesity and smoking increased the likelihood of a woman developing rheumatoid arthritis, alcohol reduced it.

Light to moderate drinking, five to 14 units of alcohol a week—a unit represents a pub measure of spirits, a half pint of beer or a modest glass of wine—reduced the incidence of rheumatoid arthritis whatever the age of the woman. The particularly striking statistic, however,

was that the women least likely to develop rheumatoid arthritis were those who were post-menopausal and drank 14 units a week, the equivalent of two glasses of wine a day, or a couple of pub tots or one home dispensed gin and tonic.

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THE TIMES WEDNESDAY AUGUST 14 1996

Portillo torn by sale of Tory HQ to McDonald's

By JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL REPORTER

MICHAEL PORTILLO was last night caught in an embarrassing row as his constituents urged him to block plans to turn his local Conservative association offices into a McDonald's restaurant.

Torn between party officers who back the lucrative sale and Tory voters who fear the restaurant will disrupt the community, the Defence Secretary sat firmly on the fence and made clear he could not take sides in the dispute.

At a public meeting in his Enfield Southgate constituency in north London local people told Mr Portillo that unless he stepped in and halted the sale he risked losing their votes. Contracts between McDonald's and the Conservative Association have been exchanged subject to planning permission by Enfield Borough Council.

McDonald's is believed to have offered £325,000 for the site, some £100,000 more than the asking price, and Tory officials are keen to secure the sale as soon as possible. Residents say the extra cash is effectively a political donation to the Tory party.

Mr Portillo told *The Times*: "Since I have been a minister, I have never taken sides on a planning issue because it could ultimately go to the Secretary of State for the Environment and we are then bound by collective responsibility. What I do in all cases is represent the views of my constituents to the planning authority."

He added that the McDonald's case had aroused a lot of feeling. "People are worried about noise, traffic, litter, what the look of it will be. All of those concerns have to be put to the planning authority." Mr Portillo, a regular diner at an existing McDonald's in Southgate, denied that he would support the fast-food chain because it practised the sort of low-wage, employment and training policies that he advocated.

Residents believe that a large, "drive-through" McDonald's at the Century House site in Southgate would disrupt a residential area. Peter Tasker, 42, a chartered surveyor, is leading the opposition to McDonald's. He claims to have the support of 2,000 local people. Although Mr Tasker has voted Tory in the past, he said he would not if the sale went through.

In the opposing corner are Malcolm Tyndall, the local Tory agent, and Lionel Zetter, the Tory chairman, both of whom are keen to raise funds. Mr Zetter said the association offices were too large, run down, expensive and underused. He rejected the idea that the site was in leafy suburbia.

McDonald's also denies that the area is residential, and says it is merely responding to demand. The new restaurant would be the 700th McDonald's opened in Britain since 1974.



Michael Portillo outside party offices at Southgate



Richly coloured painted ladies, expected soon to hatch out in their millions

Asian woman says estate agent barred her from viewing house

By SHIRLEY ENGLISH

AN ASIAN woman is suing an estate agent for £20,000, claiming she was stopped from viewing a house in a prosperous suburb because of her race.

Shahida Yousef, 39, of Newson Mearns, Glasgow, claims she was discriminated against on racial grounds when she expressed an interest in viewing the £95,000 house near by in July 1994.

Paisley Sheriff Court was told yesterday that she was so angry at being refused the opportunity to view the property that she and her husband, Muzaffar, 41, decided to test

their suspicions of racism by asking two Asian colleagues and two white acquaintances to telephone Robb Estate Agency with requests to view the property.

The outcome had confirmed their belief that Asian interest would not be welcomed. The agency had told the Asians it would get back to them but did not do so, while the white people had been given appointments to view. Mrs Yousef maintains that the vendors, John and Shirley Ann Nelson, had instructed the agents not to allow Asians to view.

Mrs Yousef said she became "suspicious" when she called for an appointment to view and was told by a Robb employee that she would get back to her after contacting the owners.

Mrs Yousef told the court: "When she got back to me she said Mr and Mrs Nelson were going away that weekend and as the house was unsold they did not want to show it to me."

"I felt quite uneasy and that she wasn't telling the truth. I felt that I wasn't being allowed to see the house because I was a Pakistani."

The Robb agency, of Newson Mearns, and the Nelsons deny acting in contravention of the Race Relations Act. The case continues.

Butterflies enliven summer in record blaze of colour

By MICHAEL HORNSEY, COUNTRYSIDE CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN is enjoying one of its biggest invasions of summer butterflies and moths in living memory, led by painted ladies, red admirals and the less-well-known silver "Y" moths.

Clouds of the aerial migrants came across earlier in the year from Europe and northern Africa, where they take refuge from the rigours of the British winter, and millions more are expected to hatch here this month.

Lepidopterists say the visitors had a particularly good breeding season in their winter quarters and arrived in Britain in vastly bigger numbers than usual in spring.

Sandra Bell, who runs a project to encourage butterflies at Kew Gardens in southwest London, said: "There was an extraordinarily big influx of painted ladies in late May and early June. The hot weather was good for egg laying."

Named for their brown colouring with pinkish flashes and black-and-white wing tips, huge numbers have been seen fluttering around buddleia and lavender bushes and on roadside brambles.

Martin Warren, of the Dorset-based charity Butterfly Conservation, said: "Normally you have to look quite hard to find any painted lady

caterpillars in Dorset, but this year virtually every thistle, their favourite food, had one." Red admirals, with their vivid red and black colouring, are doing almost as well, Dr Warren said. "They came over in large numbers from France in late May and early June," he said. "I expect to see a lot of clouded yellows, another visitor from France, this month."

Silver "Y" moths, which take their name from the y-shaped mark on their forewings, have invaded crops in England for the first time, particularly spring-sown oil-seed rape.

Chris Mead, a naturalist with the British Trust for Ornithology, said convolvulus hawkmoths, death's head hawkmoths and hummingbird hawkmoths were among occasional visitors that may be seen in greater numbers this year. Among permanent residents, which account for 90 per cent of butterflies regularly seen in Britain, peacocks, gatekeepers and holly blues, are reported to be the most abundant this year.

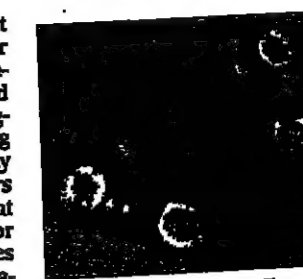
By contrast, the large white or cabbage white, normally one of Britain's most common resident butterflies, has been unusually elusive. This will please cabbage growers on whose crops the caterpillars like to feed.



Silver "Y" moth



Clouded yellow



Peacock butterfly



Red admiral

£40,000 for case of racist dismissal

AN INDUSTRIAL tribunal

has made one of the biggest awards for race discrimination after a left-wing council flouted its equal opportunity policy. Jamie Williams, 31, a property inspector who is black, was awarded £40,000 after Southwark Council contacted a "sham redundancy" to oust him from his job. Mr Williams, now an unemployed trainee architect, was awarded £20,000 for what he described during the hearing as "deep hurt" and £20,000 for loss of earnings.

Last year Claude Johnson, a Brixton prison warden, won £21,000 for injury to feelings.

Collectors fined after 10,000 eggs seized

POLICE found more than 10,000 rare birds' eggs when they raided the home of an illegal collector, a court was told yesterday.

The discovery came after a nationwide police and RSPB operation aimed at collectors and traders in protected eggs.

Geoffrey Pearson, 48, a property developer, was fined £5,000 with £90 costs by magistrates at Salisbury after the raid on his home in Torquay.

Two other collectors, Anthony Parkes, also 48, a businessman of "Cashgate" - Co. Durham, and Michael Sloane, 36, a scaffolder of Castlethorpe, Buckinghamshire, were respectively fined

£1,600 and £1,000. All admitted offences under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

The court was told that the three were members of the Jourdain Society - a respected body that studies eggs. A society meeting in a hotel in Salisbury was raided by police in July 1994, prompting the nationwide operation.

Paul Rice, for the prosecution, said that under the Act the defendants were liable to prove that eggs were acquired legitimately. This usually involved marking the egg and a catalogue date card. In Parker's case, he said police seized only about 3,000 data cards and Parker's recording was "a mess".

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Bereaved parents warn of danger of teenage drinking

By JOANNA BALE

THE parents of a girl who died after a secret drinking session at a holiday camp party warned other young people of the dangers of alcohol yesterday.

The father of Lindsay Grant, 15, said she "drank herself to death" by consuming half a bottle of vodka at a North Wales caravan site with two friends on Friday night.

Paramedics tried to revive her when she collapsed but she never regained consciousness and died 12 hours later in hospital from heart failure. Her parents John and Lorraine, from Wigan, Greater Manchester, warned other parents: "Don't let this happen to you."

Mr Grant said: "Lindsay drank herself to death. Let this be a lesson to other youngsters. It is not just drugs that are dangerous. Alcohol can kill you as well."

Lindsay was on holiday at Presthaven Sands caravan park with two friends and their parents. The three girls had gone to the party at the entertainments complex on the site at Gronant outside Prestatyn.

bottle of vodka and drank it without anybody knowing. She must have had an awful lot in a very short space of time. We do not blame anyone. It was just a tragic accident." One of Lindsay's friends needed hospital treatment for the effects of alcohol.

Mrs Grant said: "I cannot believe that this has happened. She was such a good girl and never caused a moment's worry. I don't know what possessed her to do this. She never drank and when we were on holiday together earlier this year she was not interested in drink. She used to lecture us saying we

shouldn't have to drink to have a good time. She has just made one stupid mistake and it has cost her her life."

David Fisher, the caravan park manager, told how his door staff found Lindsay staggering in the car park and called an ambulance. "She kept passing out and being sick. We couldn't smell any alcohol on her though, and she certainly didn't get it at the club house," he added. "It's all very sad and my condolences go out to her family."

He said that under-18s were not allowed to drink in the park leisure club. "There's no way we would serve them. If we did, I would lose my licence."

Mr Fisher described the Friday night party as more of a family entertainment with music, comedians and cabaret. "It's not a disco as such."

Lindsay, who had a sister Kelly, 18, had been doing well at school and had just taken part in a "swimathon" to raise money for charity. Mr Grant said: "She was the perfect daughter, a joy to everyone around her. We warned her not only of drugs but also of drink."

North Wales Police said: "A post-mortem examination showed that Lindsay died from natural causes. We cannot comment further until the inquest."



Lindsay Grant family holiday with friends

Disabled woman sues Cunard

A DISABLED woman who left a Cunard cruise after allegedly being told that she would not be allowed out of her cabin yesterday began suing the company. June Tomlinson, who is in a wheelchair, saved for three years for the cruise on the *Cunard Princess* in January 1994.

When she booked the cruise in 1993 Mrs Tomlinson, 62, said that she was wheelchair-bound but could walk a few steps, backing her claim with a doctor's note. When she and her husband Arthur joined the ship in Malaga her legs were swollen by water retention during the journey and she could not walk. Nottingham County Court was told.

Her husband said that they left the ship after staff ruled her unfit to travel and told them they would have to remain in their cabin throughout the cruise. Mrs Tomlinson, of Bestwood Park, Nottinghamshire, was refused a refund of her £1,266 fare. The case continues.

Death crash boy was due in court

ONE of the five teenagers killed when their car crashed into a dyke had been facing criminal charges. It was disclosed yesterday. Mark Lee, 17, was to appear before Leicester Youth Court yesterday accused of a string of crimes, including car theft.

He faced charges of aggravated vehicle-taking and was accused of a burglary in February in which a video recorder, jewellery and cash were taken. Lee, of Thurnby Lodge, Leicester, had also been charged with driving without insurance in May and shoplifting in June.

Magistrates formally ended proceedings against him yesterday after being told of his death.

Jamie Woods, 16, Stewart Bevis, 16, Ben O'Gorman, 17, and Danny Campbell, 14, all of Thurnby Lodge, also died in the crash at a caravan site in Ingoldmells, Lincolnshire.

Another friend, Jamie Meacham, 19, of Thurnby Lodge, survived after scrambling free from the Austin

Montego, which plunged into a dyke early on Sunday. Police have not established who was driving.

Friends of the teenagers laid flowers and wreaths yesterday outside a shop which was their favourite meeting place. Leah Green, 14, a neighbour who was on holiday in Ingoldmells at the weekend, said: "No one will ever replace them. They were always happy and laughing."

She said that she had met Mark Lee and Jamie Meacham at a hamburger restaurant in Ingoldmells on Saturday night, just hours before the crash. "They asked if I wanted to go with them, but I had to go with my mum and dad. I should have met up with the boys again on Sunday at 1pm."

The girl said reports that the teenagers went to a rave at the Fantasy Island leisure complex before the crash were wrong. Lincolnshire Police said: "We understand one of the youths had been to the rave, but not all of them."

Chain of defences faced raiders swarming across Channel

MARTIN BEDDALL



At Portchester, near Portsmouth, the best preserved fort, the layout designed to catch attackers in a withering crossfire can be studied

The Battle of Britain, Roman style

By BILL FROST

BY THE 4th century, Rome's might was crumbling and Britain — at the furthest edge of the Empire — was under constant attack by marauding tribes, brigands and pirates.

The most serious threat to Pax Romana was posed by the Saxons who had long harboured territorial designs on Britain. In response to the so-called barbarian conspiracy, a string of fortified bases was constructed along what was to become known as the Saxon Shore. Rome was no longer able to conquer, only to defend.

No site better illustrates the rise, decline and fall of imperial power in Britain than the shore fort at Richborough on the windy tip of the Isle of Thanet in Kent. It was here that the legions landed in AD 43, here that a triumphal arch was built to celebrate the conquest and here, centuries later, that the barbarians were to snuff out the last vestiges of Romano-British civilisation.

When the Emperor Claudius landed, Richborough was an island linked to the mainland by a causeway and easily defended. Now the shore fort stands a mile back from the Channel near Sandwich.

There is a curious fort on air to the site today. All that remains of the monument that Claudius commissioned after the conquest are its massive foundations. As the

raids became more frequent and successful, the monument was to be demolished and the stone used to build up the walls. However, the Saxon Shore forts were to be as ineffective as the Maginot Line.

Portchester in Hampshire, the most westerly and one of the finest in the defensive chain, was built at the end of the 3rd century when Carausius, a rebel commander, attempted to wrest control of Britain away from the Empire.

The Roman walls are the most complete in Europe, with 14 of the original 20 bastions surviving. Unlike Richborough, which is now landlocked, the fort at Portchester is still washed by the sea as it was when legions watched from the



Portchester in Hampshire, the most westerly and one of the finest in the defensive chain, was built at the end of the 3rd century

Four gates gave access to the fort, their positioning artfully designed to enhance Portchester's defences. There were posterns in the north and south walls, and main gates in the middle of the east and west.

Such is the layout that any attacking force close to the ramparts would be caught in a withering crossfire. Although the east gate is gone — buried beneath layers of me-

dieval building — much of the west gate is clearly discernible.

Defensive ditches are still visible and within the walls excavations have uncovered the remains of timber barracks. As Dr Roger Wilson, lecturer in classical archaeology at the University of Dublin, wrote about Portchester: "This magnificent site hardly qualifies for the description 'ruin'. Such is its state of preservation... it needs little imagination to visualise the fort in its heyday."

Along the coast and across the county border in East Sussex, Pevensey was also a vital link in the chain. This shore fort, too, is now inland.

Nine acres are encircled by the surviving Roman walls. However, medieval additions have done much to dilute the Romano-British atmosphere that the visitor senses on

arrival at Portchester or Richborough.

Of the surviving Saxon Shore sites, perhaps only Burgh Castle in Norfolk can come close to rivaling the southern forts. Garrisoned by a Balkan cavalry troop, it lay on the River Waveney — frequently the scene of barbarian raids. With its immensely thick walls the redoubt would have been almost impossible to storm. Topped bastions show what appear to be the mounting for ballistae, sophisticated "artillery" that hurled missiles on the attackers.

If the visitor had to choose just one of the Saxon Shore sites at which to spend the day, then perhaps Richborough is the most evocative. Every stage of the Roman occupation can be seen — conquest and loss.

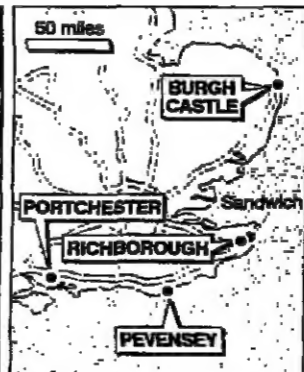
What began as a bridge-head became a thriving town. Merchant vessels were to bring all that was best for the conquerors. Finds of gold coins, jewellery, glass, games and oyster shells show that Richborough enjoyed great affluence. But the biting wind that blows all year through the breached walls and the remains of the triumphal arch tells a different story: of the inevitability of decay.

Letters, page 13

Tomorrow: Fishbourne and Bignor



Reconstruction of Richborough, centre of a string of castles raided by Saxons



MoD discloses 20 nuclear incidents

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THERE have been about 20 incidents involving British nuclear weapons since 1960, but none resulted in a release of radioactivity, the Ministry of Defence has disclosed.

However, the ministry denied knowledge yesterday of incidents involving American nuclear weapons at British bases in the late 1950s and early 1960s about which the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament insists there has been an official cover-up.

Documents obtained by CND reported a serious fire at the US Air Force base at Greenham Common, Berkshire, in August 1957, involving a "loaded" nuclear bomber, and a second fire at the same base in February 1958. A nuclear weapon was said to have been "scorched and blistered" in a crash at an unknown US Air Force base in 1961. The Ministry has asked the American authorities for any further information on these alleged incidents.

CND also says that during an exercise in May 1959, a British 2,000lb nuclear bomb was "severely damaged" after

it was dropped accidentally on the hard standing at RAF Wittering in Cambridgeshire. A spokeswoman for the Ministry said that if a bomb had been accidentally jettisoned it would not have been a nuclear device, since dummies were always used during exercises.

The details of the 20 incidents involving British nuclear weapons were compiled in July 1992 by Sir Ronald Oxburgh, then the Ministry's chief scientific adviser. He reported that "as far as we can tell", no weapons were damaged, but that the casing of some bombs was scratched. The Ministry said they were all minor incidents.

CND yesterday published its manifesto for the worldwide abolition of nuclear weapons. The "blueprint" calls for negotiations on a nuclear weapons convention, similar to the chemical weapons convention agreed in Geneva last year.

Eddie Gonçalves, one of the report's authors, said CND's allegations of nuclear weapons accidents in Britain supported its case.

Skoda helps police with inquiries

By STEWART TENDLER

A POLICE force has ignored the prospect of becoming the butt of jokes by taking delivery of a free Skoda.

Suffolk police, who already have three Malaysian-built Protons in its fleet, have been given a six-month loan of a Felicia estate car by a local dealer. The Czech-built car, which has a top speed of 90mph and takes 17 seconds to reach 60mph, will not be used by regular officers or to respond to 999 calls. It will ferry special constables around the market town of Bury St Edmunds.

A police spokesman said government rules meant that 1 per cent of police income should now come through sponsorship. "We have no problems with the car but the old Skoda jokes are coming out of the closet. We would rather have been sponsored by BMW or Porsche but you have got to start somewhere."

Graham Lawrence, the dealer, said: "The car is very economical and will not let the police down. I wouldn't be surprised if the police wanted more of them."

TV man grounds charity flights

By EVE-ANN PRENTICE

A FUNDRAISING day at a rural airstrip in aid of the BBC charity Children in Need has been curtailed after protests led by a BBC presenter.

Robin Page, who hosts BBC's *One Man and his Dog*, protested to the local authority about noise at Little Gransden airfield on the border of Cambridgeshire and Bedfordshire.

The airfield raises money through donations from pilots in lieu of landing fees, profits from refreshments and donations from visitors to the airstrip.

Mr Page, who has started his own charity, the Countryside Restoration Trust, lives in a village near Cambridge that is unaffected by noise from the airfield. But the presenter said that he had enjoyed walking in woodland near the end of the runway, where oxtails and wood anemones grow, which had been "ruined by the number of planes flying over it".

Mr Page said: "The airfield owners have turned a piece of rural land into a noisy area. Permission for the airfield

should never have been given. They could probably donate the money instead of having this day."

South Cambridgeshire District Council has stepped in to adjudicate in the increasingly bitter dispute between villagers and flying enthusiasts, and ruled that the number of flights on the charity day be halved compared with similar events in previous years.

John Jefferies, who owns Little Gransden airfield with his brother Mark, said: "We have held fundraising days for Children in Need for four or five years and all profits go to the charity." Up to £1,700 has been raised in previous years, when an unrestricted number of flights in and out of the airfield were allowed — usually about 120. This year the council has imposed a limit of 60 flights.

Gareth Jones, the deputy planning director for South Cambridgeshire District Council, said: "We decided to cut the number of take-offs and landings after getting letters of complaint from Gransden."

Caine to put art collection up for sale

By EMMA WILKINS

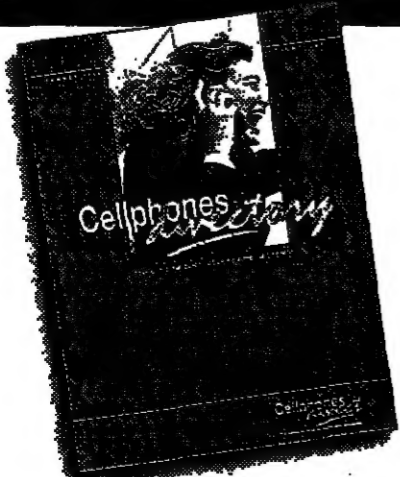
MICHAEL CAINE is to sell art and antiques that decorated his Hollywood home after deciding to spend more time in Britain.

As a struggling actor in the early 1960s, Caine began collecting art nouveau and art deco lamps and glassware. The collection, along with works by Picasso, Lowry, Dali and Moore, will be auctioned over three days by Sotheby's in October and November and is expected to fetch £500,000.

Caine, whose personal fortune is said to exceed £16 million, owns a house in Oxfordshire that is liberally decorated with fine arts and antiques. After shipping his collection from America, he and his wife Stakira decided it would not fit in.

"I had hoped we might be able to squeeze the two collections together, but there simply isn't the room," he said. "I shall be sorry to part with the things we had when we lived in Los Angeles, but I was concerned that the more fragile pieces could get damaged by being crammed in too tightly."

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Parking warden arrested at Palace

A PARKING warden has made an official complaint against the police after he was arrested and handcuffed while trying to put a ticket on a van outside Buckingham Palace. The warden defied a policeman who ordered him to ignore the vehicle while it made a delivery at the Palace's goods entrance.

The policeman arrested him, handcuffed his hands behind his back and took him to the police office at the Palace. The grey-uniformed warden, who is in

his 20s, was told that he was at risk of being charged with obstructing police but was later released without further action. His employer, APCOA, the parking contractor for Westminster City Council, has made an official complaint to the Metropolitan Police.

The incident happened on Friday at Buckingham Gate, which runs beside the Palace. A council spokesman said: "The man was distressed and visibly shaken. He was sent home on sick leave. He had

been trying to issue a ticket to a van that was illegally parked where unloading is not allowed, in an area where police have asked us to be vigilant."

"He did not offer any resistance but the handcuffs were not removed. The council is dismayed and believes the policeman's action was extreme."

Scotland Yard said: "A man was arrested for obstructing police. He was given a formal warning and released without further action."

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Chechen guerrillas face hollow victory in ruins of Grozny

BEFORE you reach the city's outskirts, Grozny looms on the skyline like a large black cloud, the result of six huge oil fires burning out of control and belching thick smoke high into the Caucasus sky.

With the almost continuous clatter of helicopter gunships and the occasional roar of warplanes overhead, most drivers these days spend as much time looking nervously above them as they do along the shell-pitted roads ahead.

A week after a fierce and perfectly executed rebel offensive, life in the Chechen capital has stabilised to what passes for normality in a country gripped by constant war. Russian forces control a handful of positions in the centre and on the outskirts; the rest of the sprawling capital is in rebel hands. The situation is almost as it was when the conflict erupted in December 1994.

A good example is the Grozny district of Chernomir where, since the first day of the rebel offensive last week, lightly armed rebels have surrounded and cut off a Russian base of 1,000. "Those



Chechnia's separatists have outfought the Russians, but Richard Beeston in Grozny finds the price has been high

poor bastards are starving to death like flies," said Roma, a grinning fighter who, unlike his Russian enemies, was going home for a day off after a week spent harrying the beleaguered garrison.

Although it was widely expected that the Chechen offensive would last only days, it is now clear the separatists are well established and plan a long stay. "In March when we attacked our objective was to seize Grozny and pull out after a few days," said Ahmed Zakayev, one of the insurgents' top commanders. "This time we meant to take Grozny and hold it until the Russians provide concrete evidence that they are serious about ending the conflict peacefully."

"We trusted Yeltsin's promises, but as soon as he won [the election] the attacks resumed.

This time we want the Russians to pull out before we relinquish what we have captured."

Although the former actor, holder of the undemanding post of Chechen Minister of Culture, cuts a rather Hollywood appearance in his black scarf, green headband and battle fatigues, his demands are real and the ability of his fighters proved in battle. Putting aside the speed with which they captured Grozny and the two smaller towns of Gudermes and Argun last week, the separatists have proved to be as adept at military planning as they are at street fighting.

The Ladars, tractors and lorries of the Chechen rebel army yesterday kept open a supply lifeline that should enable them to hold on to their



Russian soldiers carry a colleague, one of hundreds killed in efforts to retake Grozny, to a safe area in the city

capital, Grozny's version of the Ho Chi Minh trail, the supply route that helped the Communist forces to conquer Vietnam, may be shorter and less exotic, but it performs the same service, bringing in food, ammunition and fresh fighters and moving out wounded and weary guerrillas.

But civilians have paid a high price for Chechen victories. Yesterday one family,

half-Chechen and half-Russian, walked the eight miles to the safety of the city outskirts after their home was destroyed by Russian artillery. "This conflict is madness," said Andy Gusayev. "We just want to be left in peace."

More disturbingly for the rebels was a less typical refugee scene, when a middle-aged man, trying to escape with his family, struck a heavily armed

Chechen fighter who had threatened to confiscate his car because his documents were not in order.

The rebels may be winning on the battlefield and at the negotiating table, but their victory could be hollow. The city they have fought to control is a wasteland of destruction, home to stray dogs and people too weak to escape.

One clue to how people felt could be found at a pond near Grozny's industrial district. Two elderly men, one Russian and one Chechen, had clearly had enough of 20 months of war. They ignored the madness around them to indulge in their passion for fishing.

"They are just starting to bite," said one man, grinning contentedly as his float bobbed on the water.

Peace talks held amid frail truce

FROM THOMAS DE WAAL IN MOSCOW

THE new truce for Chechnia declared by General Aleksandr Lebed, the Russian security chief, had an uneasy birth yesterday as sporadic fighting continued in Grozny while the two opposing commanders met to work on the terms of a ceasefire.

General Konstantin Pulikovskiy and Colonel Aslan Maskhadov met in Noviy Atagi, south of the capital, where Colonel Maskhadov had met General Lebed on Sunday night, to hammer out the details of a ceasefire, due to begin at noon today, and a pullback by both sides.

This is familiar ground for Colonel Maskhadov. General Pulikovskiy is the fifth Russian commander he has negotiated with during the 20 months of the war. Each time the Russians have agreed to negotiate with great reluctance, but a truce has been hammered out, only for it to be breached.

This time hopes of a workable truce are greater because

General Lebed, who is President Yeltsin's official representative, has thrown his authority behind it. He said on Monday that there was no military solution to the conflict and that negotiations were essential. However, the rebels showed no sign of pulling out of the city, which they have controlled for a week. One rebel spokesman said the Chechens had surrounded the headquarters of the FSB, the former KGB, in Grozny.

The Russian command says that more than 160 of its men have been killed and 500 wounded, but the real figure is probably much higher. The number of civilian casualties is not known, but thousands are trapped in the city without proper food or water. Refugees who have reached Staraya Sunzha on the northern edge of the city are believed to include 240 wounded and there were attempts yesterday to set up a "humanitarian corridor" for them to leave.

Serbs let Nato team inspect key base

FROM ANTHONY LOYD IN ZAGREB

BOSNIAN Serb military authorities bowed to Nato pressure yesterday and allowed an inspection of their Han Pijesak headquarters, previously blocked by Serb troops, rather than face punitive action.

Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Walker, British commander of the Nato-led ground forces, flew by helicopter to the site in eastern Bosnia, taking with him the Bosnian Serb President, Biljana Plavsic, to ensure full compliance in the examination of the complex. In doing so, General Walker defused the latest of a succession of challenges to Nato's authority in Bosnia by the Serbs, who under the terms of the Dayton peace accord must acquiesce to the inspection of any military installation by Nato.

"We are here to enforce the military annex of Dayton," General Walker told journalists, "and if there is a requirement to use force to do that, we will do so."

He was met at Han Pijesak by the Bosnian Serb Army's deputy commander, General Milan Gvero, and together with his aides and a large media contingent was led on a tour of the base that the Serbs had originally prevented on Saturday.

Han Pijesak is the headquarters of the Serbs' overall commander, General Ratko Mladic, an indicted war criminal who technically is liable to arrest by Nato troops. However, the Dayton implementation force is reluctant to tangle with General Mladic, a cult hero to Serbs. His removal could fragment his army, making it more difficult to subjugate. The Nato inspection, announced in advance, was exactly what it pertained to be rather than any attempt to capture the general.

Bulgaria bewails death of blind seer

BY EVE-ANN PRENTICE

DOYENS of Cold War communism were yesterday mourning a blind, web-fingered fortune-teller reputedly consulted at various times by Leonid Brezhnev, Mikhail Gorbachev and Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, as well as decades of Bulgarian leaders.

President Zhelev of Bulgaria led the sympathisers for Granny Vanga, one of his country's most beloved figures, who died on Sunday.

Mr Zhelev, with Zhan Videnov, the Prime Minister, travelled 100 miles from the capital, Sofia, to Ruptite to lay the 85-year-old to rest. Tens of thousands of Bulgarians also flocked to the funeral, at the Orthodox church she founded, while much of the rest of the country bewailed the passing of the woman whose status bordered on sainthood.

Vanga — who used only one name — found fame after going blind during a whirlwind at the age of 12.

"People are very sad, she was highly revered," said Zlatina Kostova, a journalist in Sofia. "She predicted many important international changes, such as the coming to power of the Communists in 1944. But she also helped many ordinary people with their troubles, such as people who had missing relatives or people who had been kidnapped."

Peasant women wearing black mourning kerchiefs, urban teenagers in blue jeans, businessmen carrying mobile phones, and high-ranking politicians escorted by bodyguards humbly lined up to place a flower, kiss an icon of the Virgin Mary and touch Vanga's hand and forehead — a sign of apparent belief in her immortal power.

Granny Vanga was true to her powers to the end — she is said to have foretold the time of her own death.

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Lieutenant Sugano in 1943 with the first locomotive to run the whole track

Death railway stirs pride as Japan marks surrender

FROM ROBERT WHYMANT IN TOKYO

AS JAPAN marks the 51st anniversary of surrender in the war in the Pacific that ended the Second World War, Koichi Sugano will commemorate the construction of the Burma-Thailand Railway with a mixture of horror for fallen comrades and pride in a great feat of engineering.

As in previous years, Mr Sugano, a former lieutenant, and other survivors of the Imperial Army's 9th Railway Regiment will assemble at Yasukuni Shrine in Tokyo to lay flowers and pray in front of an ancient locomotive that once ran on the infamous line.

But this year the veterans are upset by the behaviour of their former captives. In a lawsuit filed against the Japanese Government, former British prisoners of war are claiming compensation for their treatment at the hands of the Japanese Army.

"We have nothing to be ashamed of. We put all our youthful energy into our task, which was to build a railway to ensure supplies for our fellow soldiers in

Burma," says Mr Sugano. "The British prisoners of war in our camp just wanted to have an easy life."

The veterans have restored the first locomotive to run the whole track, number 5631, rescued from the Thai jungle and brought back to the shrine. Mr Sugano's mission now is to restore the honour of the regiment, especially of two comrades executed as war criminals for atrocities against prisoners.

More than 16,000 Allied prisoners and 100,000 Asian labourers died clearing the jungle and building the railway, including the notorious bridge over the River Kwai. Survivors testified to being beaten, starved and deprived of proper medical care. But this is not how Mr Sugano, a former sapper, remembers the railway.

"It is true we did not treat the prisoners of war in the camps as our guests," he said.

"Soldiers in railway regiments tended to have rough edges. I cannot say nobody ever hit a prisoner. Human

rights were not a priority. All we thought about was the efficient construction of the railway."

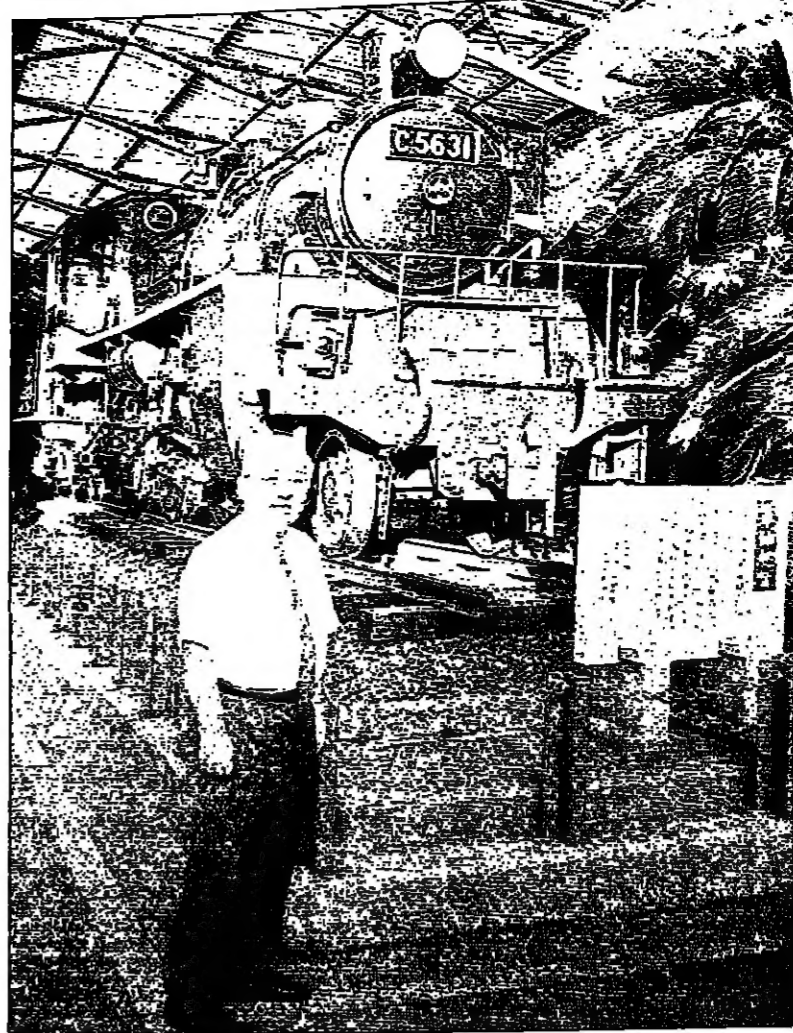
Yasukuni, beside the Imperial Palace moat, where the souls of Japan's war dead are enshrined, houses a museum dedicated to a century of Japanese military exploits.

Mr Sugano, who runs a camera shop in Tokyo, is incensed by Japanese leaders who say sorry. "I do not feel sorry," he says.

"I think the reason the POWs bear a grudge is because we forced them to work. They hated that. And that is why after the war they wanted to put all members of the railway regiments on trial."

Mr Sugano was accused of mistreating POWs and imprisoned in Rangoon for a year without standing trial. He says he and the 140 surviving members of his regiment expected to turn up on Sunday bear no grudge and will remember the Allied POWs in their prayers.

"They died in a good cause," he says. "You know, the line is still operating."



Mr Sugano with the newly-restored engine at the Tokyo shrine

French bank begs more billions from taxpayer

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

THE state body co-ordinating the sale of assets from the troubled bank Crédit Lyonnais has asked the Government for more cash to supplement a rescue package that is already one of the most expensive in French history.

The request for an additional Fr7 billion (£900 million) in funding, to offset losses made on the sale of assets, has been sent to Jean Arthuis, the Finance Minister, but the Government is not prepared to provide more than Fr3 billion, the newspaper *La Tribune* reported yesterday.

The demand for further cash to help the embattled bank, which reported massive losses in the early 1990s, comes days after the Government announced it was seeking criminal investigations against former directors of Crédit Lyonnais.

The bank dropped last week to its lowest level since March amid speculation that the investigation could also threaten Jean-Claude Trichet, Governor of the Bank of France, who as director of the Treasury from 1987 to 1993 was responsible for supervising state-controlled banks.



Arthuis: set extra finance limit at Fr3 billion

Those targeted may include the bank's former chairman, Jean-Yves Haberer, and economists have speculated that the investigation may be an attempt to find scapegoats for the bank's huge losses.

The Government has called on state funds to aid the bank on two previous occasions and economists estimate that the bank may make further losses this year, partly due to the costs of helping to fund its own rescue.

Le Monde noted that, in the light of the latest demand for a further injection of state money, "the need to rethink the rescue plan for Crédit Lyonnais becomes more ap-

parent with every day that passes. The losses are financed by loans, which themselves generate further losses due to interest payments. In short, a snowball phenomenon... the authorities are aware that the rescue plan is unworkable as it stands."

The Consortium de Réalisation, the independently managed company set up to hold the Crédit Lyonnais assets, is due to sell two-thirds of them by 1998 and there is widespread speculation that the Government is preparing a third restructuring package for the bank, possibly transferring the bail-out costs entirely to a state entity.

With the half-year results for Crédit Lyonnais expected soon, the Government is anxious to show that, while taxpayers must foot the bill, it is actively pursuing those responsible for what *Le Point* magazine has dubbed "the banking scandal of the century". Between 1992 and 1994 alone Crédit Lyonnais ran up losses of Fr21 billion through aggressive over-expansion dating back to the late 1980s.

Describing itself as the bank "with the power to say yes", Crédit Lyonnais did so with such abandon that it has now earned itself a new nickname — "Débit Lyonnais".

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Rasmussen: issue can finally be settled

Danes to test EU status in court

FROM CHARLES FERRO IN COPENHAGEN

ELEVEN Danes will mount a fresh court challenge to test the validity of the country's membership of the European Union.

The Danish Supreme Court has ruled that a case filed by 11 EU opponents who questioned the constitutionality of the Maastricht treaty can be heard at a lower court.

The case, against Poul Nyrup Rasmussen, the Prime Minister who signed the treaty in 1993, will be heard at Copenhagen's High Court. The plaintiffs contend that he was in breach of Paragraph 20 of the Constitution. This segment of the supreme law of the land deals with sovereignty. The 11 say that Denmark has relinquished too much power to Brussels.

"If the plaintiffs win the case, then Denmark would no longer be bound by the treaty," Henrik Zahle, an expert on constitutional law, told the *Berlingske Tidende* newspaper. "We would therefore no longer be members of the EU."

"The Government can look forward to a time when the questions that had been raised in this issue can finally be cleared up," Mr Rasmussen said.

Legal and judicial experts hailed the decision, viewing it as an historical benchmark. They believe it will tip the scales of power towards the courts.

"Politics is no longer a question of gaining a majority. It will now be a question of legislation remaining within the framework of the Constitution," Professor Hjalte Rasmussen, an EU expert from the University of Copenhagen, said.

Until the courts settle the issue, Denmark will be unable to sign any major treaties, including a revision of Maastricht now under way.

Retreat by Mandela in cash row

FROM R.W. JOHNSON IN JOHANNESBURG

PRESIDENT MANDELA has finally stepped into the row over allegations by a sacked minister about covert election campaign funding, admitting that the African National Congress had received 2 million rands (£300,000) from Sol Kerzner, the casino and hotel magnate.

Bantu Holomisa claimed that this donation was linked to the failure of the courts to proceed with a bribery case against Mr Kerzner pending since 1989. The sacked minister had also suggested that the tycoon had paid for a 50th birthday party for Thabo Mbeki, the First Deputy President, and given favours to Steve Tshwete, another Cabinet minister.

Originally the ANC and Mr Mbeki had denied all the allegations and branded Mr Holomisa a liar. Bit by bit this front has collapsed. Mr Mbeki has now admitted that his lavish birthday party was paid for by white businessmen, whom Mr Holomisa says were acting as intermediaries for Mr Kerzner. Now Mr Mandela has admitted that Mr Holomisa's most significant allegation was true, on the eve of the former minister facing an ANC disciplinary hearing today, the details of which are being kept secret.

For the first time strong criticism can be heard, even on the state-run radio, of the President's conduct. His declaration that nobody should apologise to Mr Holomisa and that if anyone tried to he would "personally overrule them" has been widely criticised as petulant, authoritarian and prejudging the disciplinary hearing.

Mr Mandela's insistence that ANC leaders had no knowledge of Mr Kerzner's donations is not being taken too seriously, any more than is

the claim that these donations did not have some effect on the Government's attitude towards Mr Kerzner. Black Consciousness activists point out that Mr Kerzner was one of the chief financial supporters of the apartheid "homelands" system. There has been criticism, too, of the tardiness of the President's intervention and the way the affair has been allowed to blow up into the biggest political crisis the ANC has faced since coming to power.

Mr Holomisa's original allegation was that Stella Sigcau, the Cabinet minister, had received 50,000 rands of a 2 million rands "bribe" paid by Mr Kerzner to George Manzanina, the ruler of the Transkei. Ms Sigcau has never contested this, and had the ANC not attempted to smother its embarrassment by sacking Mr Holomisa, nothing very much need have followed. Now, however, the standing of Mr Mandela and Mr Mbeki have been gravely damaged and Mr Holomisa has become something of a popular hero.



Mandela: conduct being criticised on state radio

Cape vigilante chief held

BY INIGO GILMORE IN JOHANNESBURG AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

SOUTH African police yesterday arrested a leader of the Muslim vigilante group that has declared a jihad (holy war) against Cape Town's drug-dealing gangs.

Nadhim Edries, co-ordinator of People Against Gangsterism and Drugs (Pagad), appeared briefly in court on a charge of sedition. Prosecutors said a charge of murder might be added later. Police called on

two other Pagad leaders to come forward for questioning.

One of these, Ali "Phantom" Parker, provoked criticism from the African National Congress after saying that Pagad was considering offers of help from fundamentalist groups, such as Hamas and Hezbollah.

The arrest yesterday comes after Rashad Staggie, co-leader of the Hard Livings gang, was shot and burnt to death in front of police and television cameras ten days ago.

Immigrant fast fails to sway Paris policy

BY BEN MACINTYRE

THE French Government yesterday insisted that it would offer no concessions to African immigrants on the 41st day of a hunger strike in a Paris church, despite accusations that its headline stance was aimed at wooing voters on the Far Right.

At dawn on Monday, 300 armed riot police raided St Bernard Roman Catholic Church and evicted ten hunger-strikers, mostly Mali men in their twenties and thirties, who demand the right to stay in France. The protesters were taken to Paris hospitals but were released when they refused food. They immediately returned to the church fast.

At least one million immigrants without residence papers are living in France, and the volatile issue is likely to play a key role in the 1998 legislative elections. Laws framed in 1993 by Charles Pasqua, then the Interior Minister, to clamp down on immigration have been followed by increasingly hardline mea-

sures under the Government of President Chirac.

Some 15,000 immigrants have been deported from France on charter flights since last year's election, and Jean-Louis Debré, current Interior Minister, said last week that the number of aliens expelled had risen by 15 per cent this year.

The temporary eviction of the hunger-strikers drew vigorous protests from opposition Socialist MPs and human rights groups yesterday. The left-wing newspaper *Libération* described the raid on the church as a "martial display" and said that legal action would be taken against the Paris chief of police for allegedly infringing the hunger-strikers' freedom.

The National Front also criticised the police raid, describing it as "proof of weakness, since it shows the Government is powerless to solve the problem of a few dozen immigrants who openly defy it".

Hunters stalk India's baby-snatching wolfpack

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

EVERY night in villages in northern India all ears are tuned for the sound of a wolf. Men walk the fields with guns, traps are set, people flee indoors — and a killer wolfpack outwits them, making off so far with 18 infants.

The story has grown bigger in the telling, and entire villages are battering down for fear of a wolfpack made legendary by its exploits. Some mothers say infants were snatched from their laps and dragged into the night; others describe the far-off howl that signals a child being carried away.

Dr Ram Lakham Singh, head of a 40-man team of wolf-catchers, said rumours spread that the children's killer was a human capable of changing form and jumping 30ft. Several people had been attacked for supposedly being the wolf in disguise. Railway lines, trains and stations had been damaged in protests.

Fear turned to hysteria with the latest attack last week, the first in 13 weeks, when a two-year-old was mauled while sleeping outside with his mother in the village of Dandwa Majra, near the small town of Pratapgarh in eastern Uttar Pradesh. Most of the attacks have been in the

same area. The boy's remains were found near by at dawn; people said the wolves moved like phantoms.

Stopping the rumours has proved all but impossible, despite official pronouncements that the wolf is definitely not human. The hunt for the wolfpack received high-level official backing after the recovery of the half-eaten body of a child outside a den near Pratapgarh. Eight children were killed in just one village, Jaunpur, where the wolves last struck about two weeks ago.

The wolves have not fallen for any tricks: they ignored two wolf pups left out in cages; did not respond to the

tape recording of a crying child; and were not tempted by a tethered goat.

The new wolf-catching team, given the bureaucratic title Decentralised Protection Operation, involves armed forest guards, policemen and local people with licensed weapons. They have been divided into two-man groups and every night they patrol the wolves' natural habitat in the ravines of the Sai River.

The return of the wolf is a conservation success story after a ban on killing them. There are, or were, about 100 roaming free in the Pratapgarh area. Now they are being methodically wiped out.

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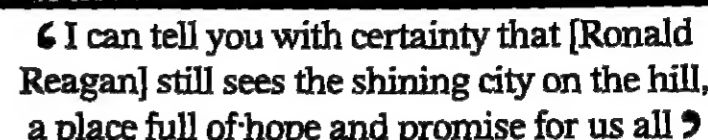
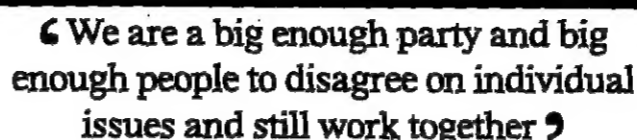
by
la
ow

Appeal of Powell provides boost to Dole campaign

Probably no one but General Powell, America's most

Mr. Ford, who modestly

One unintended consequence of General Powell's performance was to remind the country what a formidable presidential candidate he would himself have been, and how uninspiring Mr Dole is by comparison.



Everything about the prominence of this issue is hard for a non-American to comprehend. Policy is determined by Justices of the Supreme Court, despite the obvious reality that the US Constitution is silent on the matter. It has a profile not matched even in

Yet, in practical terms, the Republican platform ranks as one of the most incredible policy stances adopted by any serious party in the Western world. The chances of persuading the constitutionally required two-thirds of

are represented by the Christian Coalition and its telegraphic director, Ralph Reed. They would keep the broad anti-abortionist text but move away from the implausible detail of a human life amendment. Instead, their emphasis would be on alternatives to abortion such as adoption and, for some, greater access to contraception.

As part of their push to enter the mainstream, they back the *Contract with America*, although it contains no

The candidate has been forced into a document he disagrees with. He has tried to soften this by arguing that he is not bound by it. But Bill Clinton's enormous lead over Mr Dole among women proves its importance.

Buenos Aires: An Argentine sailor listed as missing and presumed dead after the sinking of the *General Belgrano* during the Falklands war in 1982 has been found in a mental asylum near here 14 years later, his family said. Oscar Montegrosso, 34, was known at the asylum as "NN" — No Name. (Reuter)

Mum's th

FROM RICHARD OWEN
IN ROME

Leading article, page 13



Italian pu

In 1994 a book made lurid claims about Mr Klein's social habits and about his friendship with Perry Ellis, a prominent fashion designer who died of an Aids-related illness.

sources were again yesterday turning to the likelihood of a bomb. A kitchen area towards the front of the Boeing 747 was reported to have been retrieved from the ocean in a "crushed" state. This gave

Mr. Konno, 56, whose wife lives in Japan, was kidnapped with two young Mexican cheerleaders. His whereabouts were still unknown yesterday, although the two Mexican women, a 20-year-old and her 16-year-old sister, were released unharmed on Sunday.

He also proposed an amendment to the civil code governing marriage ceremonies under which a woman

The proposal was immediately assailed by men's rights groups — themselves a relatively new phenomenon in Italy, and a sign that traditional male domination is under challenge from advancing feminism. A spokesman for the Institute for the Study of Paternity said the Pisapia proposals were an anachronism, a throwback to the kind of worship of the Italian

The proposal created a new dinner party game, with participants trying to work out what celebrities might have been called if they had taken their mothers' surnames. Sophia Loren, in her screen persona at least, would have been Sophia Villani, while Silvio Berlusconi, the former Prime Minister and media tycoon, would be Silvio Bossi, sharing the name with the fiery leader of the Northern League, Umberto Bossi (unless, of course, Signor

daughter of Il Duce and an MP for the "post-Fascist" Alleanza Nazionale, supported Signor Pisapia. Signora Mussolini has kept her own family name, for obvious political reasons, and insisted yesterday that her one-year-old daughter, Caterina, would also be a Mussolini.

However, she declared that the law under which children were obliged to take their father's name was a "medical absurdity".

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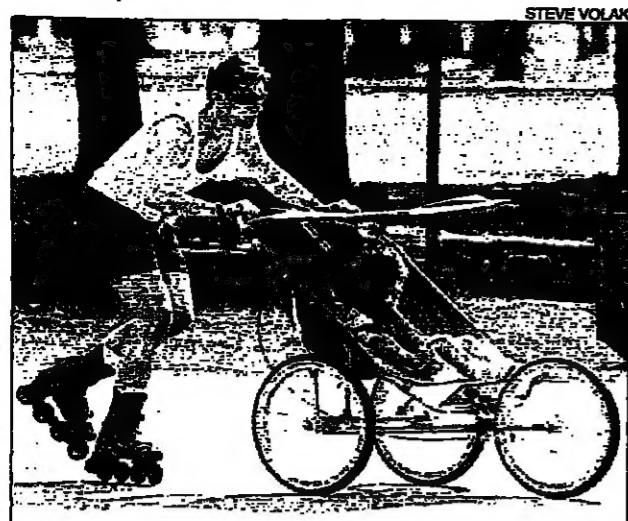
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It's cool to be a daddy



Tom Cruise with Connor and Isabella in Hyde Park

Sling him into a backpack, wear him round the neck — wherever they may go, fashionable men are taking their babies with them.

Grace Bradberry reports

So you thought the ultimate style accessory for men in the late 20th century was a pair of Gucci loafers? Wrong. It's a baby.

It's now cool to be a daddy. Go to any park, open any man's glossy, and there'll be fathers bonding with their offspring, throwing them in the air, wearing them in fashionable backpacks, or trundling them along in state-of-the-art buggies.

This is the way modern macho man displays his softer side. He bonds, he spends time with his children, he re-establishes his values. And all the while he is showing off the evidence of his virility.

Not only that, he's demonstrating something more fundamental — that he's freed himself from the treadmill of work. Ten years ago, it might have been the thing to work 14 hours a day. Now it's a sign of enslavement. The best way to demonstrate a laissez-faire attitude is to spend more time with the children and less at the office.

But as with everything, it's not just what you do but the way you do it. Wearing Arran sweaters and wheeling Charlie round the park in a frilly pram is no more the thing than it ever was. Ideally, both you and your child should be fashionably attired and equipped with the latest gear.

If your tiny tot is a boy, then so much the better — dress him in miniature versions of your own wardrobe, and reinforce the message that style runs in the family. It's certainly the subliminal message in

this picture of Werner, the world's highest-paid male model, with his son, Marion. "Hey look," it yells. "Aren't we both cute?" Even the quiffs match, whether by nature or nurture.

To aid and abet men in creating this impression, several leading designers have moved into children's wear. Paul Smith has a kids' line, and Ray Kelvin, the man behind the ultra-fashionable menswear label Ted Baker,

has just launched Teddy Boy, for five to 12-year-old boys. Why? "Because I've got two boys," Benjamin and Joshua are, as yet, only two and 12 weeks, but Kelvin has begun "styling" the older one. His priority is image. "But my wife has this thing about them wearing the right shoes, so they have to be Start-rite or Clarks. I'm always saying, 'Come on, how about these trainers?'"

But it's not just about clothes. "I recently bought a house in the country and I now lock myself away during the week, then spend the whole weekend with my children. I don't even want to travel now, because it takes me away from my kids. People in the Nineties are rebellious. They look back on themselves ten years ago, and say, 'It's not all about work, aggression and money-making,' and they decide to spend more time with the children."

Nick Ashley, son of Laura Ashley, and the designer of cool menswear for the Notting Hill crowd, is another of the stylish men who have discovered fatherhood. When his elder daughter came along, he

had a clear idea of how she should look: "I wanted to get white sleep suits and dye them black. My wife said there was no way she would dress her baby girl in black. I suppose that was an attempt at designer babyism from a man's point of view."

But as with Ray Kelvin, it's the time he spends with his children that is Ashley's biggest statement. He has spent most of the summer closeted in Wales with Lily, four, and Edie, now seven weeks.

"Spending time with your



The world's highest-paid male model, Werner, and his son, Marion, reinforce the message that style runs in the family

children is the most important thing you can do," he says. "It's impossible to say that fatherhood has become fashionable because it's as old as man himself — but fathers these days are taking a more active role."

This willingness for men to get involved in the "early-day motions" (as they used to be euphemistically referred to by men who preferred to read the newspaper) is one of the subjects of a new book, *Fatherhood Reclaimed*.

Its author, Adrienne Burgess, a research fellow at the Institute of Public Policy Research, discovered that men were not only spending more time with their children but were kicking the irresponsible playmate image and actually doing more of the work. Although, as she points out, "It's now much easier to change a nappy than it used to be, which means that fathers can get involved without having to learn a particular skill."

She also discovered that the changing design of accessories had made men feel more comfortable: "Some told me that at first they'd only held the buggy with one hand. Now some of the pushchairs have a more mechanical, boyish look to them, and that has made things easier."

Top of the most-wanted list

is a British version of the American three-wheeled Baby Jogger used by Tom Cruise. It is made by a small Devon company and is sold in Harrods and also in outdoor shops.

But however you carry the little dears, there's no doubt that a baby can do wonders for a man's image. In a recent episode of the American sitcom *Friends*, Chandler and Joey took Ross's baby out in the hope of pulling, while an entire film, *Jack and Sarah*, was built on the same premise, with Richard E. Grant starring as the newly widowed — and newly attractive — father of a baby girl.

"I was working at Granada TV when a colleague brought his baby into the office for the day," recalls its writer, Tim Sullivan. "This ordinary bloke suddenly became the centre of attention. The women immediately took the baby away from him, as though he couldn't cope. It was ridiculous, of course. But it gave me the idea to look at how a man who was just as much of a bastard as before might suddenly appear vulnerable, responsible, different from the rest."

Sullivan discovered a whole new interest in supermarket shopping after the birth of his first daughter, Isabella. "I

I wanted to get white sleep suits and dye them black'

used to carry her around the aisles in one of those harnesses that has the baby snuggling against your neck. The reaction I got from women was tremendous," he says. "We're talking trolley pile-up."

However, Sullivan is suspicious of "daddy toys" such as three-wheel buggies: "Running round Hyde Park with the children in tow does not constitute spending quality time with them."

One final word of warning: never, ever, dress your baby in a reverse baseball cap.

Beauty news for autumn

Goodbye to the natural look

PROMISES, promises — under-eye treatments invariably come with a long list of promises. Sadly, nothing can reverse the effects of ageing, and it's difficult to avoid feeling conked when the lines are still there the morning after the application. So Molton Brown is pushing all the right buttons when it claims that Eye Rescue will offer "more than just a cooling sensation with moisturising benefits".

For £15.50 you might hope for a bit more. But the promised "mini-eye-lift" sounds a bit too good even for that money. There are three specific claims: an immediate sensation of cooling and tightening around the eye, a little-by-little fading out of lines as the skin becomes hydrated, and a reduction in puffiness.

PURPLE is the lip colour for autumn, worn against dramatically pale skin. It's the very reverse of make-up *au naturel*, and will doubtless not be a hit with the opposite sex. Nevertheless, it's one way to get away with wearing tweed without turning into Jean Brodie. Givenchy has introduced a whole range called Prunelle, which sadly sounds rather wrinkly to the English ear. The rule is to accentuate either lips or eyes, never both, so Pourpre Velours lipcolour (£13) should be combined with a blond eye colour such as Ottoman (£19). Most of the major companies have brought out plum lip colours.

Choose from Helena Rubinstein Black Purple (£12.50), Christian Dior Rouge Collection lipstick in Plum Invention (£12.50), Prescriptives Plum Satin (£11), or Yves Saint Laurent Rouge 2 in Ultra Mauve (£14.50).

AT LAST! Oasis, the high street chain, has come up with the perfect cheap chic contact lens kit for £14.99. It's a little silver case barely bigger than a powder compact, but it nevertheless contains two plastic bottles for decanted solutions, the lens case itself, a built-in mirror and a pair of plastic tweezers to avoid contaminating the lens when there's no water to hand.



Givenchy's Prunelle look

HOT HITS FOR LATE SUMMER

IT'S August, you are about to go on holiday, and you open your wardrobe to find a sad collection of fading T-shirts, cut-off denim shorts and washed-out silk shift dresses. You need to go shopping, but at first glance the rails are full of autumn clothes, with nothing but a few size 14s left over in the sale. What do you do?

Thankfully, some of the high street stores do have the sense to bring in "bridge" collections, which are much smaller than their full summer or autumn ranges, but have just enough dresses, skirts and shorts to see you through.

Next kept some of its summer collection out of its sale, and has just brought in some new late summer clothes. Look for capri pants, T-shirts, T-shirt dresses, swimwear and sandals.

Jigsaw started its sale last week (the last of the high street chains to do so). There are plenty of

pieces left from the high summer collection. Look out for silk and linen shift dresses, short-sleeve shirts, a few remaining swimsuits and floral print dresses that came into the store only last month.

French Connection has a bridge collection including long, sleeveless and short-sleeve dresses and short-sleeve shirts in floral and leaf prints.

The Gap has rib T-shirts, vests and athletic-style clothes.

Dorothy Perkins has georgette shift dresses, swimwear and bikinis, vests and T-shirts.

Marks & Spencer still has some swimwear at full price.

Bhs has a late summer collection including palazzo pants in white or black, crêpe tunic tops and T-shirts.

If money is no object, then try Ralph Lauren for cropped tops in the Polo range or linen shirts from the classic range.

Renewing your home insurance in August or September?

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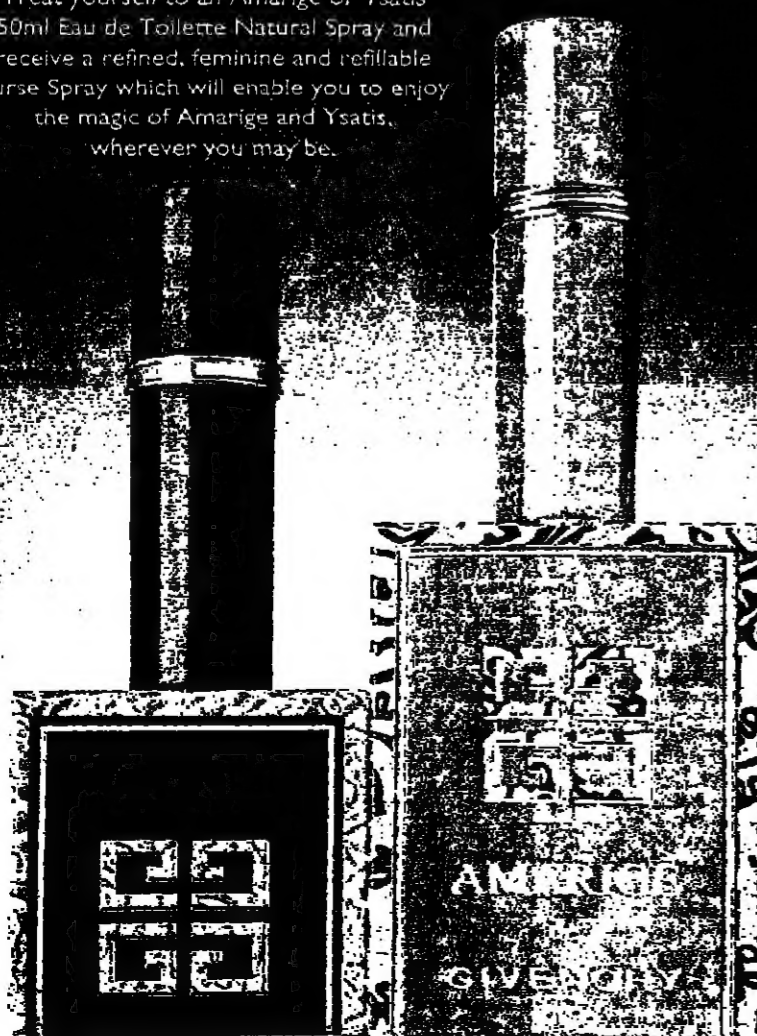
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The victims of drugs should have our compassion, not condemnation



In some societies drug-taking is an acceptable ritual — but in the West society is threatened by the irresponsible pursuit of altered consciousness

Why addicts need us

An alcoholic," Dylan Thomas once said, "is someone you don't like who drinks as much as you do." We feel uncomfortable with addicts, perhaps because we recognise that we all carry the potential for addiction within ourselves. We feel even more threatened by those who take illegal drugs — they have stepped outside the sanctioned area.

But the distinction between what is acceptable and what is not is blurred. Alcohol is approved, while Ecstasy is disapproved. Both drugs cause grave damage to the health. Yet Ecstasy-stupefied madmen do not smash bottles in each other's faces at closing time. Perhaps we should ask ourselves what the difference is between the friendly owner of the local off-licence and the demon drugs dealer?

Drug addicts are too often regarded as the drags of society, who lack strength of mind. While they can hide their addiction, they balance on the tightrope of social acceptability. Once they can

no longer conceal it, they plunge.

In a civilised world this is no way to treat those in need of help. Addicts need compassion, not condemnation. If they are to be encouraged to give up.

The desire for intoxication is deep-rooted. Man's natural craving for liberation from the restrictions of routine is satisfied by experiencing altered states of consciousness. For thousands of years we have pursued altered mental states and other-worldly insights whether through prayer and meditation, through art or sexual ecstasy, or through psychoactive substances.

The use of drugs can be traced far back into history. Discoveries of poppy capsules in Neolithic burial caves in southern Spain suggest that opium played an important cultural role, most probably as an intoxicant.

Ritualised drug use is an integral factor in certain societies. In tribal New Guinea, for instance, hallucinogenic fungi are part of an initiation ceremony, allowing privileged



Rachel Campbell-Johnston

elders a culturally crucial access to the secrets of a spirit world.

I attended a drug-taking ceremony in the Amazonian rain forest. It was a rigorously ritualistic affair. Men and women abstained from sexual intercourse for seven days before going out, separately, into the forest to collect plants which, when boiled together, made a potent mixture. Under the influence of this drink, each person felt themselves to be possessed by the spirit of his or her shamanistic animal: an alligator or an antester, a peccary or a parrot. When I sampled my ladleful I was violently sick for several hours and little inclined to try again.

Modern culture is perhaps the only one in which mind-altering substances are used in an almost exclusively secular way. Tea and tobacco, originally taken only in sacred and ceremonial settings, have been divested of any spiritual significance. Instead we pursue intoxication in an arbitrary and hedonistic way. The development of synthetic derivatives such as heroin and cocaine from opium and coca have led to a threatening new era in drug use.

But simply to prohibit something is not enough. The forbidden fruit has always been the most alluring. To the young, there seems a tempting fearlessness in experimenting with drugs. Boldness, even at the cost of folly, should not in itself be condemned. We send out mountain-rescue teams to rescue hapless amateur climbers.

"Mankind cannot bear too much reality," wrote T.S. Eliot. "I drink not from mere joy in wine, nor to scoff at faith — no, only to forget myself for a moment, that only do I want of intoxication, that alone," wrote Omar Khayyam. Many drug

users are people of a heightened sensitivity, unable to cope with the rawness of life. Surely we should see them as people to be helped, rather than despised.

Scientific evidence is emerging that addiction is not simply a collapse of willpower but a complex condition and over the past few days *The Times* series on addicts has suggested that it should be viewed as a medical disorder.

I have a close friend, Nicholas, who is an addict. His parents, though wealthy, were both alcoholics. Late into the night, he would hear the cries of their arguments, punctuated by the occasional crash as one of them tripped over a rug. "When I was a child, everyone in my life who should have been vertical was horizontal," he used to say. "I started to drink — heavily."

I was sharing a flat with Nicholas when he first took crack. There seemed, admittedly, a certain allure in it at first. I would arrive home from work and find a group of elegant people chattering animatedly in the drawing room. They would still be there when I got up the next day. The routine of my regular job seemed, in comparison, tedious.

It was a long time before I realised that Nicholas was an addict. The parties were long since over. I never suspected that all the eviscerated ball-point pens, the sheets of tin foil, the bottles of mineral water which I found about the house were part of the addict's paraphernalia. He hid what he was doing from me with a wily cunning. Drugs had turned him into a liar. By the time he eventually did confess it was too late. He wasn't taking crack any more, crack was taking him. His life had become one of pointless isolation. He never worked any more. He was close to despair.

"It is when you are finally on your knees that you realise how much you need someone," he said. "I don't know what I would have done if you had screamed and shouted." Crack had become more important to him than his family or friends. "I only had two emotions in my life," he said. "I was happy when I had drugs, I was unhappy when I didn't."

It is important that those of us who are fortunate enough to have relative security, to have learnt the dangers of drugs without having to ven-

Trapped on the desperation treadmill

In the week that a multiple pregnancy dominates the news, Meg Henderson tells how she has come to terms with the fact that she will never be a mother

Somewhere in this house is a little transparent plastic container. Inside is a pair of tiny, frilly baby slippers that I bought the first time I was pregnant. But no baby ever wore them, because I never carried one to term. My reproductive career spanned five pregnancies, all of which ended in the second trimester, after the supposedly safe third month had passed, and without realising it I spent nine years on the desperation treadmill.

Looking back, I should have known better. I rose to the rank of chief cardiac technician in hospitals in this country and abroad, and I knew about the medical profession. To keep their careers going, doctors must produce good results, and they do that by using the only commodity they have, their patients. These days, the way to get a bigger share of the available money is to have a heavy case load — and a vocal list of grateful patients is no hindrance, either. If you are an obstetrician, there is no shortage of infertile women out there, driven by the primeval need to have that elusive child. So you get them to step on board the desperation treadmill, eagerly following your every suggestion, the longer-for-baby just out of reach like a carrot dangling on a stick.

I should have known better, but I was in that state of complete shock that his every woman who discovers she cannot have a child. The hunger for a baby gets stronger every time you fail. But it is not just about wanting a baby, it is more complex than that. Bound up in all that desperation are other drives and emotions that are rarely addressed. Discovering that you cannot perform a basic, natural function alters your self-image; you are not like other women, not "normal". I can remember the burning need to be pregnant again

after every pregnancy ended. There was no time to grieve over the lost baby, or the lost self — and no opportunity because doctors, and surgeons especially, are very bad at dealing with emotions. It is not in their career interests to arrange the help their patients really need, whatever counselling it takes to come to terms with their situation. So you end up with an unholy alliance between desperately vulnerable women and the doctors whose jobs depend on it.



The Vince sextuplets, born in Leeds in May 1993

The end of my nightmare came when I was admitted to my own hospital for yet another series of tests. I think my colleagues suspected that after nine years I was beginning to think. To stop the rot they made me join a group of women who, like me, had been trying for years to have a live baby.

They would go home to their husbands to get pregnant, return to hospital for the duration, then back home to get pregnant again. They had no personal lives, no privacy; their sex lives had been reduced to the basic requirement of sperm meeting ovum. Nothing happened that was not known to the medics involved, and they had no relationships with their men; everything normal had been sacrificed to the all-consuming goal of reproduction.

They discussed their pregnancies in medical terms that I had to look up afterwards, recounting trag-

ic histories of stillbirths, miscarriages and blocked tubes in the manner of old campaigners. All emotions had been buried; instead, they had been kept on the treadmill by the carrot on the stick.

The group encounter was intended to encourage me to keep trying, but it made me see the light. I decided I had no burning need to reproduce; I wanted a family, yes, but I wanted a marriage, a life with my husband. I left without undergoing any more tests. I stepped off the

treadmill. My husband later admitted the only reason he went along with those years of treatment was in case I hated him if he refused.

The consultant almost fell off his chair with shock; I was only 32, he said, far too young to make such a decision, but apparently not too young to spend the foreseeable future losing countless babies. He quoted statistics, the last refuge of a beaten medic. He said I was giving up too soon, nine years was nothing; some women kept trying for 20 years. Yes, exactly.

Careers are built on the low success rates of infertility treatment and on the tragedy of women who cannot have a child but are encouraged to believe that one day, years hence, they might. We do not hear enough about those who sacrifice their marriages, relationships, money and lives to the cause. Or the ones who, like me, come to terms with reality and then get on with their lives.

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Lolita is no apologia for paedophiles

This investigation of innocence is unfilmable, says Lesley Chamberlain

When cherished books are made into films, the ambiguity embedded in a writer's language is invariably lost. Vladimir Nabokov's style in *Lolita* is such a dense network of allusion and self-reference that it is no wonder the latest attempt to screen the novel has run into trouble. Explaining why no American distributor has yet taken on the \$50 million venture of British director Adrian Lyne (whose previous successes include *Fatal Attraction* and *Indecent Proposal*), one Hollywood executive is quoted as saying: "Paedophilia is a tough sell."

Paedophilia? My edition of *Lolita* prints the views of 50 distinguished critics to counter the cries of depravity that delayed the first English edition until 1959. No doubt the book Nabokov wrote in 1955 is about love. It is depressing, then, to see that 40 years on, Lyne's reading has not only reawakened the old misunderstandings, but that they are made all the more tawdry by their coupling with the language of profit. But perhaps "reading" is not the word. You cannot read an orchestral score by extracting one theme and discarding the rest.

Humbert Humbert's wickedness is never in doubt. He is a paedophile who has intercourse with an anaesthetised 12-year-old girl. But there would be no great novel if Humbert did not muster an elaborate defence. *Lolita* loosely takes the form of a speech to the jury. In that framework, the tale of Humbert's criminal doings as a lodger in the Haze household unfolds. Nabokov is famous for his love of wordplay and his juggling with ideas. He enjoys watching cryptic shadows fall across the light of his overt themes. This tapestry of verbal clues (Nabokov had, incidentally, been the first Russian crossword compiler, and was a strong chess player too) was part of what made this novel so intractable for the cinema. Stanley Kubrick later regretted his attempt in 1962 to film the unfilmable.

Part of what makes *Lolita* a great love story is her innocence. In what way, asks Humbert in the twisted self-defence that suggests one of the novel's deeper meanings, is a sexually precocious 12-year-old living in 1940s "Freudian" America innocent? She is a beautiful, provocative, foul-mouthed "nymphet", who has already had her first sexual experience with another girl at camp. The provisional answer is: because of her complete lack of emotional attachment to what is going on. *Lolita* shows no feelings Humbert is equipped to notice. She can be "bought" with candy and soda pop. She is bored when he makes love to her. Then she falls in love with another man and runs away, and when this man spurns her, she is hurt for the first time — not by sex but by love. The hurt defines the innocence.

When Nabokov emigrated to America from Paris in 1940, he perceived a morally vague society saturated in junk Freudianism. Hence *Lolita*'s surname: Haze. The vagueness perhaps required of the novelist that he invent Humbert's monstrous act to define real innocence. (Compare our own obsession with child abuse as a definite sexual offence, in a world that addicts its children with impunity to violent and explicit media.) Humbert grows naturally in such a world. He feels justified exploiting its blindness. "The child therapist in me (a fake as most of them are, but no matter) regurgitated neo-Freudian hash and conjured up a dreaming and exaggerating Dolly

in the 'latency' period of girlhood... Society itself has almost made of *Lolita* a legitimate object of desire. Is Humbert's crime a warning?

Humbert refers to himself in the clue of clues as "I, Jean Jacques Humbert...". It was Jean Jacques Rousseau who created a concept of innocence which lasted from the late 18th century until perhaps 20 years ago. Rousseau, the father of modern sentiment, considered that human beings were corrupted by society. Progress would mean protecting the natural innocence of children and women, and recognising that women, by their natural virtue, were men's necessary moral guides. The slogan was "Back to nature", and women were conscripted into holding the banner.

No doubt there have been feminist readings of Rousseau that go deeper, but it seems to me in keeping with Nabokov's thinking to suggest that in Rousseau's scheme of things men could entertain their view of a potentially perfect "natural" world only if women played the complementary role. If man was flesh, woman had to be spirit. If man was reason, woman had to be beauty and goodness. If man was a seasoned adult, woman had to be an innocent child. Nabokov's novel invokes with a vengeance the profound unnaturalness of that tradition. By implication, it posits a compliant woman-child as the adult man's ideal sexual partner.

Nabokov is a writer possessed by a great moral rage. With *Lolita* literally a child and Humbert a fastidious Western man of letters, the anti-Rousseauian plot runs its course.

"Dolly" finally marries Schiller, namesake of another historic spokesman for moral purity and the immaculate feminine. She dies, as it were reclaiming her immaculateness, in childbirth. To treat woman as a doll is, he implies, the only way fastidious Western intellectual idealism could deal with her. Nabokov portrays his child-woman as an object to be pleaded with, bought, not quite trusted, and adored with a passion of jealousy and insecurity. *Lolita* caricatures and eventually irrevocably punishes that attitude, by which a man can regard a woman's states of mind as of no importance beside his own.

The other aspect of this theme is that the ideal of innocence, by offering a poetic justification of sexuality while failing to understand men and women as real equal natural beings, harmed men too. By perpetuating the gulf between flesh and spirit, it created confusion, deviousness and guilt, and that is another starting point for the creation of the monstrous Humbert, who legitimately claimed a poetic heritage for his worshipful act of rape.

Society's picture and men's expectation of women have changed vastly since 1955. The repression and unnaturalness of which Humbert's crime was both a true and a distorted reflection now have a dated feel. Still, I do not know another artist who writes so beautifully about sex in both its rapture and its morality. Dmitri Nabokov, in a deliberately scant introduction to his father's recently published collected stories — no doubt to ward off the kind of interpretation I have been offering here — makes only one observation that pertains to the whole oeuvre: that Nabokov hated cruelty in all its forms.

The author's most recent book is *Volga Volga* (1995).

No one writes so well about sex, its rapture and morality

The four-minute wedding will hurry the moment of a lifetime, says Quentin Letts

Spare us McMarriage



Quentin Letts and his bride: formal vows

O'Sullivan to utter them in a single breath.

As our religion correspondent reported yesterday, the new wording will be used in the majority of weddings in England and Wales, in register offices, Free and Roman Catholic churches. Couples presenting themselves for marriage will now simply have to say: "I declare that I know of no legal reason why I, Beryl, may not be joined in marriage to Frank." Later, "I, Beryl, take you, Frank, to be my wedded husband." The master of ceremonies will then thank the crowd for coming ("You've been smashing, folks, just lovely" or some such, Jimmy Tarbuckish vaudeville), and that will be it.

There will be no need for a box of Scotties Mansize for mother. She will scarcely have time to blow her nose more than once. The chauffeur waiting outside can be told not to bother parking

the ribbon-decked Austin Princess. When the happy couple reappear, blinking rather, on the steps of the register office, Willoughby will still be sucking the same Murray Mint he unwrapped after dropping off the bride.

Confetti manufacturers face a rise in turnover, and wedding photographers will need their camera motorbikes to keep pace with the flow of gawking grooms. The scenes outside

register offices may take on the fast-forward quality of old cinema newsreels. For Moss Bros, there is the business option to consider. Morning coat rental by the hour?

For the rest of us, the considerations should be directed to the soul. Why hurry what is meant to be the moment of a lifetime? In an age of demoralising divorce statistics, why cut back even further an already undistin-

guished civil wedding ceremony? Is the four-minute wedding — the McMarriage, to borrow fast food terminology — really so grand a thing?

It is 447 years since Thomas Cranmer and Nicholas Ridley turned their hands to the Book of Common Prayer, its "form of solemnization of matrimony" (that's five words already) has an elegance of language and wondrous cadence of phrase. It talks of the "dreadful day of judgment" and "excellent mastery". There are "wits", "forasmuch" and a decent quota of troth plighting. One might expect some early stuff about "men's carnal lusts and appetites, like brute beasts that have no understanding" to appeal to modern congregations raised on Denis Wheatley and late issues of *Reveille*, but those particular words tend to be left out by the few

clergymen still prepared to embrace the old liturgy. As my good, kind vicar explained: "We don't want to frighten the horses."

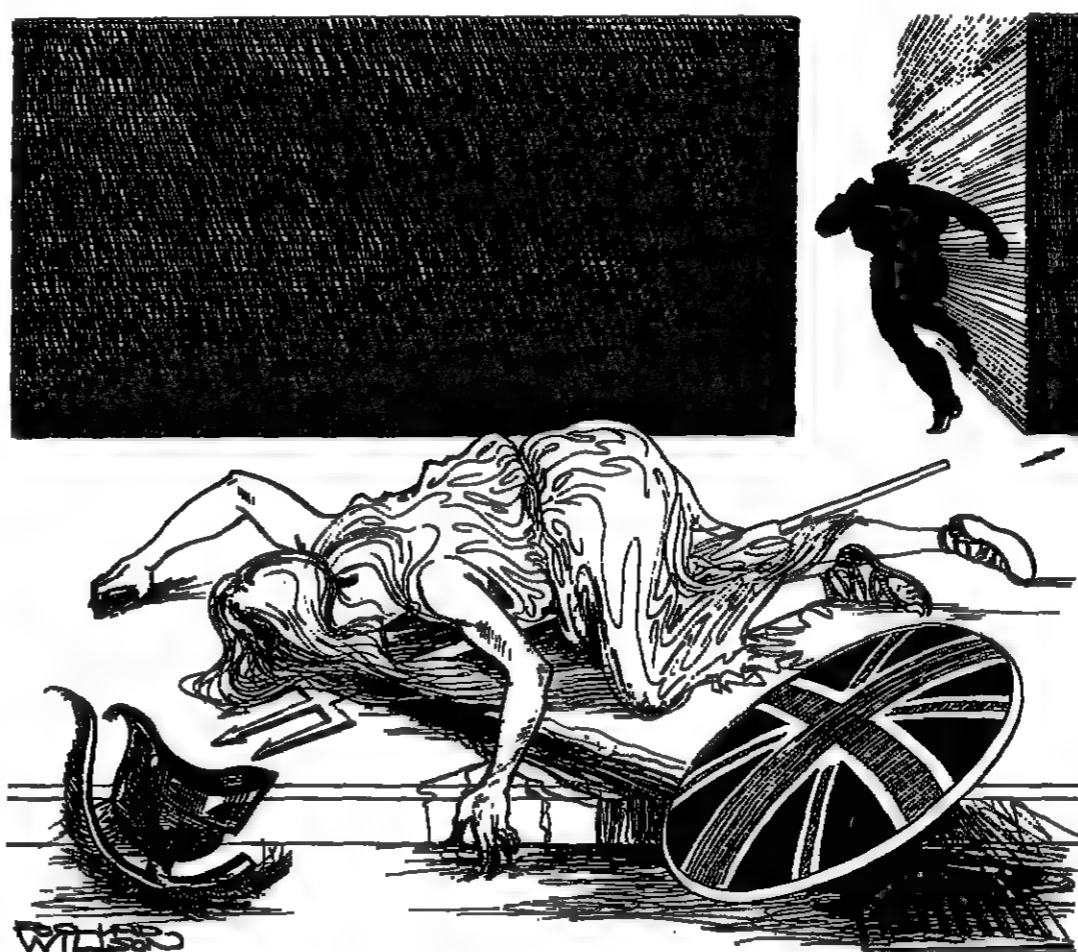
But isn't the brute beast of the field who are frightened. It is us — scared of language, of grown-up words and nasty sentences which course beyond the edge of the page, like ships on the high sea which in bygone days fell off the edge of the flat world. The Bishop of Southwark and his cronies on the Churches Main Committee, who piloted the new wedding ceremony through Parliament, have surrendered to linguistic flat earthism.

They could have gone further. They could have had the register office supervisor ask the bride: "Well, Beryl. Do you want him?" Bride: "Yeah, all right." Supervisor: "Frank? How about you, mate?" Frank: "Whatever you say, pa." It would not have been much worse.

The author will be married on Saturday to Lois Rathbone. They will be using the Book of Common Prayer.

The demands of our day

David Selbourne calls for a movement to preserve the civic order from moral anarchy and political cynicism



our collective condition than our silly politicians know, and more worried about lost civic identity and our lost sense of national direction than at any time since the Second World War.

Moreover, those who take a close interest in the Westminster scene smell a number of rats in the political wainscot. Thus, there are the born-again Left libertarians — many of them former Trotskyites — who have chosen constitutional reform as the political banner under which to march through our institutions; and there are the Gingrich-like privateers on the new Tory Right, who have put our civic patrimony on the auctioneer's block and who are no more "conservative" than my old boots.

Much of this "new" politics is therefore not what it seems, and not what it pretends. Nor should anyone mistake the scale of suppressed public anger at the way the social fabric has been torn apart in the last dozen or more years. The fraudulent conversion of our public utilities — which belong to all the

people — into private assets disgusts millions of us. In headier times and different places, or if our people had been made of sterner stuff, the political architects of these acts would have been not re-elected, but impeached.

Now, given the public depression and sense of impotence to resist what the politicians choose to do to us, the nation turns inward. Millions will not vote, especially among those eligible for the first time. The underclass, or marginalised poor, are less truly citizens than at any previous period in my lifetime. The intelligentsia, for the most part, withhold its sympathy from the political parties, and is even less enamoured of new Labour than of the old.

Nevertheless, it is also true that as the pace of dissolution has quickened and more of our institutions have been sold, the slogans of "social cohesion" and "community" — and even calls for a balancing of "responsibilities" and "rights" — have broken the surface of public debate. For a while, on the Left, the

red herring of "communitarianism", which is more of an American folk movement than a serious political creed, was dragged across new Labour's trail. Since then, "stakes", which are rights under another name, have had a run. But it is merely another mercenary concept, derived from the market.

The "stakeholder" is not truly a citizen, not a civic person, for he (or she) will do certain desirable things if, and only if, you "give him a stake". But as citizens we already have a stake. It is called citizenship, even if some of us choose not to know it, to devalue it or to neglect its duties. The men and women who defended us in 1940 did not belong to regiments of stakeholders, for they were not mercenaries, but citizens.

From the Right, meanwhile, we have been told that the citizen may rest easy (or supine) in his bed as the civic order is sold off, or starved of funds, around him. There is no need to worry about the Post Office, the railway system, Army housing, the 999 emergency service, the

water supply, the BBC's transmitters, Civil Service recruitment, nuclear power and all the rest of it — and how much there is that has gone irretrievably down the privatising pipe — for they will be better run, and we will be better served, if they are all dispersed from the public domain.

A bogus argument was briefly heard that it was actually in the civic interest for public institutions to be dissolved. Today, the argument is heard no more. No wonder: it was false, and often disbelieved even by those who advanced it. But the sales go on, and will go on until the electorate stops them with its votes.

Good citizens, who are ready to serve others, have a deep social conscience, concern for the future, anxiety for children and care for the environment, who struggle to maintain their sense of moral direction, are under great pressure. They were once tolerant of many things but are now increasingly worried. Their fears are not eased by the absurd message from the Left (and sometimes from the Right, too) that what we need is a more generous liberty, greater and more secure "rights", and fewer impediments to our freedom of action. For this society, however corrupted, is probably the freest society that has ever existed.

The greatest threat to our liberties lies not in the supposed denial or disappearance of our rights — a mere fantasy — but in our failure to fulfil our civic and social duties to ourselves and to others. Yet as the civic order comes under greater stress, ideas directed to the recovery and strengthening of our common ties are making their own advance. Civic battles have increasingly been joined, with ethical issues always near their heart, in matters of welfare entitlement, educational standards, family law, public order, penal reform, bioethics, environmental protection and the abatement of the media.

Nothing is being left unchanged by this moral turmoil, in which the wellbeing of all citizens, present and future, is the principal issue. Although none of the main political parties is a truly civic party, the hour of civic thought has come. The best way to greet the millennium will be by means of a powerful social and ethical movement, cross-faith and cross-party, armed with principles and policies directed to preserving the civic order. For the bond which holds us together must be protected from further dissolution.

David Selbourne is the author of *The Spirit of the Age* (1993) and *The Principle of Duty* (1994).

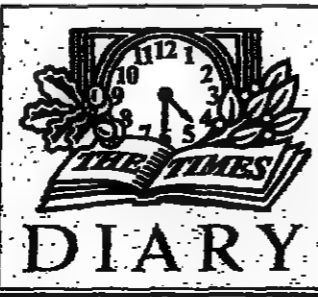
Black Mark?

MENTION the name Dene Smuts near Mark. These days and you are likely to get a growl, followed by a snarl, with perhaps a baring of teeth. Smuts, a Democratic Party MP in South Africa with a liberal conscience, has a problem with the granting of permanent residence status to Thatcher, who made a fortune acting as the intermediary in arms

deals. She is refusing to let the matter drop. Ranged against her are the forces of Chief Mangosuthu Buthezi, leader of the Inkatha Freedom Party, and the South African Home Affairs Minister. Buthezi has defended Thatcher, saying allegations about the arms deals had been noted by the Government before the request for permanent residence was processed.

Nevertheless, Smuts has been granted permission to study Thatcher's case file on a confidential basis at the Department of Home Affairs. There she will find that Thatcher, having complied with the criteria for a permit, was "of good character" and would be a desirable inhabitant of South Africa. Smuts resolutely disagrees.

Sebastian Coe may have the most slender of majorities in his Cornwall constituency of Falmouth and Camborne, but somebody there loves him. His post is regularly forwarded from the constituency office to the House of Commons, and someone had



scrawled on the latest batch: "We could have done with you in the Olympics, mate."

Overlooking

NUDISTS on a beach in Massachusetts have been driven off their patch by the arrival of Vice-President Al Gore on holiday. Gore is staying with journalist friends in a house overlooking Ballston Beach near Truro, Mass. His visit sparked state officials into enforcing their no nudity rule against the harmless naked folk who for years had basked undisturbed.

The president of the naturist society, Lee Baxterdall, has weighed in: "We urge Al to go down to the dune, strip off and enjoy the experi-

ence that ought to be available to all bathers. It would loosen him up." We beg Baxterdall not to extend the invitation to Labour's deputy leader, John Prescott, as he scours Britain's beaches for supporters.

The vulgar Donald Trump has risen above Baroness Thatcher in the speaking-making stakes. He has insisted that business conference organisers who want him to make a speech next year in Australia increase his rate from \$80,000 to \$100,000. This would gump Lady Thatcher, who can earn up to \$100,000 for an hour's speech on the circuit — for Trump is to speak for just 45 minutes.

Telly nelly

NOTHING is too much for those reporters at the *News of the World* currently protecting Mandy Allwood and her eight unborn babies at a "safe house" in the Home Counties. The house appalled Mandy when she first saw it, on account of its poor facilities.

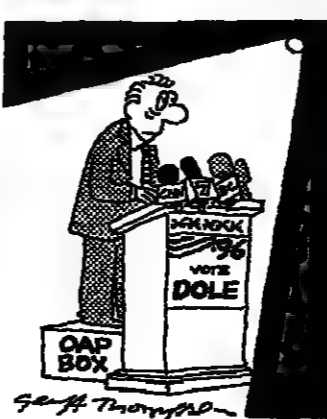
"There's no telly," she cried. "I'm not staying here." In panic, one of the reporters phoned the office for permission to buy one. She is now happily ensconced at her hide-

away, watching herself on every news programme.

Enoch eros

MEMORIES of Enoch Powell's sideline as an erotic poet will be revived by Rob Shepherd's unauthorised biography of the great humanist, politician and scholar due out this autumn.

Powell's Catullian instincts were evidenced in his two early books of poems, which, I understand, Shepherd dredges up:



I did not speak, but when I saw you turn And cross your right leg on your left, and told Your hands around your knee, I felt a flow Of white hot lava seething up the old Volcano shaft.

Guns remain firmly off the menu at Hamley's toy shop in Regent Street, London. Despite the decision of the Home Affairs Select Committee not to ban handguns, the toy shop is standing firm by its post-Dunblane decision to pull toy guns off their shelves. "We had a very good response from our customers," says the store, "and we have not put guns back on the shelves since."

Tsk, tsk

WITH the impending release of Bernardo Bertolucci's sex and sleaze film *Stealing Beauty*, the Labour leadership is playing out its own Chantillyshire drama. *Stealing Beauty* is a story of intense male rivalry for the affections of the sweet, affecting Leader of the Opposition. Holed up in a Tuscan palazzo near San Gimignano, he is the guest of the suave Geoffrey Robinson, Labour MP for Coventry North West. Gazing weasel-eyed from Lon-



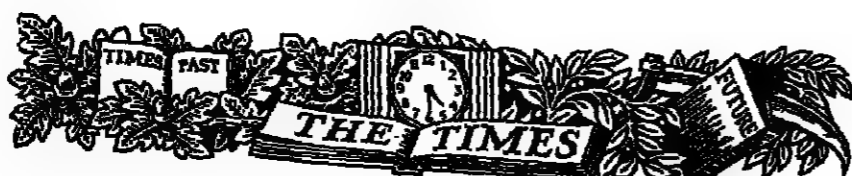
Liv Tyler in *Stealing Beauty*

don is Peter Mandelson, cursing having had to go on his Tuscan idyll earlier this year. John Mortimer drops in with stories and aphorisms. But I'm told the newest arrival is Blair's puppyish press officer Tim Allen, who loves his leader so much that he has bought his own little villa in the Tuscan hills.

P.H.S



Thatcher: desirable or not?



OFF TARGET

Tory MPs who oppose gun control are out of touch

Legislating in haste is rarely wise. But sometimes one event, however singular, draws to public attention the pressing need for reform. Dunblane was such an event. Weapon ownership laws are ill-equipped to cope with the growth of an ugly culture which celebrates the gun as a talisman of masculinity for the morbid and inadequate. There has been a worrying increase in the number of powerful weapons, legally held, in unsuitable hands. The Tory members of the Home Affairs Select Committee may have tried not to be swayed by the emotion that Dunblane engendered. Instead they have been influenced by weak arguments from a powerful lobby.

The select committee report is the work of a bare, and wholly Tory, majority of its members. Six Conservatives have published the case against a ban on handguns. The five Labour members dissented, showing not only a keener feel for public sentiment but a better grasp of the arguments.

The dithering defence mounted by the Conservatives is woeful. The six MPs argue that since the majority of firearms used in crime are illegally held, then banning guns would do little good. Any reduction in crime would be a by-product of a crime as horrific as Dunblane. The Conservatives constitute only one of many committed with legal firearms. If crimes could be prevented by taking guns out of circulation, and they could, then legislators have a duty to act.

So reluctant are the six Tory authors to act that they clutch at the flimsiest of straws flung by the gun lobby. The MPs argue that banning handguns would cause difficulties for starters at races. They oppose storing handguns in clubs because officials might be put out by having to be available to open up premises at short notice. Central storage of ammunition was opposed because the British Shooting Sports Council feared that

loading weapons at a tournament, rather than at home, might impair performance.

Can these MPs really think that the chance, no more, of minor inconvenience to sportsmen should come before protecting citizens? Almost as incredible as their arguments for inertia are their suggestions for action. These include the requirement for a doctor to countersign any application for a gun licence. Doctors cannot judge authoritatively on the fitness of any individual to own a gun and should not have to bear the guilt if they make a mistake on a matter so subjective. Why should doctors accept such an onerous responsibility when MPs are unwilling to face up to their own to legislate?

The MPs' almost wilfully weak position is further undermined by their assertion that a handgun ban would mean £140 million paid in compensation to gun owners and millions more lost by the gun trade. The appeal to the wallet on an issue that has engaged the public's heart is crass. It re-inforces the unhappy impression that Conservatives reduce every moral question to a matter of cash. These MPs are happy to support Michael Howard's increased expenditure on the police and prisons to protect the public. They should extend the same logic to restricting ownership of handguns.

There is a strong case for an outright ban on weapons designed, not for sport or game, but to kill human beings. The proposals from the Association of Chief Police Officers, which would ban all but sporting guns and those below .22 calibre, should be considered along with moves to keep guns and ammunition in secure clubs. The Government has said that it will await Lord Cullen's inquiry but will not shirk from legislating quickly if required. Lord Cullen's report may make a good case for minimal change. It could hardly make a worse one than that of the select committee.

BOX IN THE MANGER

BT shows contempt for the heritage — and for competition

Since 1985 when BT decided to remove the much-loved red telephone boxes designed by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott from the streets of Britain, the pointless destruction of one of the nation's modest architectural treasures has stood as a small but potent symbol of the abuse of monopoly power. This week, however, the BT corporate barons have managed to outdo their own record. Tomorrow in the High Court BT will demand a permanent injunction against a small entrepreneurial company called New World Payphones which is planning to install 5,000 new payphones across Britain — and to put many of these phones in refurbished Scott boxes acquired from the architectural salvage yards to which they were so willingly consigned by BT. BT wants to prevent New World and other potential competitors from returning the popular Scott boxes to the streets. BT Scott design, it claims, "is associated with BT in the public mind". The company contends that customers who saw these boxes would assume they were operated by BT. People would be deceived into thinking they were buying a BT service and New World would benefit unfairly from the goodwill which BT enjoyed.

As Lord St John of Fawsley, chairman of the Royal Fine Art Commission, argued yesterday in a letter to *The Times*, it is hard to imagine a clearer example of "dog-in-the-manger". For 11 years people have called for a return of the Scott boxes, a desire that BT has done its best to thwart. The survival of the remaining traditional boxes is due largely to planning orders imposed by local councils, often in the teeth of BT opposition. The High Court should surely agree with

Lord St John that BT has no "moral claim whatsoever on the Scott design", regardless of the technical niceties of trademark law which it hopes to exploit tomorrow.

But even focusing on the legal and economic issues, BT's case deserves short shrift. Customers would be able to distinguish perfectly easily between BT's payphones and those of competitors — not only because the operators' names would be clearly printed but also because New World proposes to paint its boxes green, rather than red. This is a questionable aesthetic judgment, but it does have the legal virtue of completely undercutting the logic of BT's case.

There is, however, a more important economic issue which the court should consider. The main reason why New World wants to use the traditional boxes is that planning regulations in many of the conservation areas where it wants to operate would prohibit the installation of any other type of box. Thus if the court were to uphold BT's argument it would effectively be outlawing any competition to BT in many conservation areas — exactly the sort of city centre locations where public telephones are likely to be most profitable. Beneath BT's insensitivity to aesthetics lurks a monopolistic intent.

If the High Court were to rule in BT's favour tomorrow it would effectively be forcing councils to choose between competition and the architectural quality of the public realm. At a time when both are in short supply, the law would bring both itself and BT into further disrepute if it imposed such a Hobson's choice on the public.

CANDLES OF CUBA

Castro is a lonely celebrant on his birthday

Fidel Castro turned 70 yesterday, declaring with mock modesty that he wanted no special celebrations or anything that smacked of the cult of personality. For once, the old Cuban autocrat's commands have been ignored. "Take close to Fidel, while it may be only once in one's life, certainly gives one a special strength to overcome everything," the editor of one paper declared. "His words contain many keys to decipher the human mysteries of the past, the future, the present," she added in a paean that would sit comfortably with the tributes once paid to such as Elver Hoxha, Nicolae Ceausescu and Kim Il Sung.

The old dictator, his beard now flecked with grey, his speeches shorter, his cigars a mere glow in the revolutionary memory, is an unlikely survivor. He himself did not expect, he says, to reach the limit of man's allotted span. Given the conditions to which he has reduced his country, that is an expectation for few of his fellow Cubans. Conditions on the island are as grim as ever. The economy is weak. The tentative tolerance of opposition has ended. The leaky boats have again set sail for the promised freedoms of Florida, their human cargoes often drowning on the voyage.

It is almost 40 years since the then romantic revolutionary swept down from the hills to cleanse the island of Batista and his playboys. The Guevara, achieving a mythic martyrdom, but his erstwhile companion-in-arms never captured the imagination of Europe's eluded student Left. Señor Castro may have cast himself as the plucky David

facing the vengeful American Goliath; to most idealists, however, he seemed more like the Latin poodle, house-trained by Brezhnev's arthritic Soviet Union.

Autocrats and tyrants are often particularly sentimental about their birthdays. The cult of personality, taken to extremes by Hitler, Stalin and Mao, meant that their birthdays had, necessarily, to be marked by popular rejoicing. The public exhortations to be merry were the best measure of the unpopularity and artificiality of such cults.

Nowadays the world's remaining dictators exercise a measure of restraint, aware, perhaps, from historic example of how hubris invites disaster. Little restraint surrounds the cult of Saddam Hussein. But the extravagant claims made for Kim Il Sung have not been repeated of his son: an indication also that he does not yet have the levers of power in his hands. Colonel Gaddafi hides his age with a desert modesty: it does not do for a young firebrand to be over 55.

On the global scale of autocracy Señor Castro does not reach quite as high. He ranks somewhere in the cluster with President Assad of Syria and General Abacha of Nigeria. He has spent half his life in power, and insisted yesterday that though he was not immortal, his revolution would outlive him. Few observers agree. An indication of popular discontent was the fulsome Cuban claim that millions of friends around the world were celebrating Señor Castro's birthday as their own. Most of the candles have already been blown out by the 70-year-old dictator himself.

What it will mean to 'beat-a-cheat'

From Mr David Wedgwood Benn

Sir, A few days ago I rang the new "beat-a-cheat" hotline (letters, August 10) to find out whether one could report a benefit fraud without giving one's name. I was assured that complaints could be entirely anonymous.

This raises a basic point of principle. There is an important difference between a confidential complaint (such as policemen and journalists often receive) and a totally anonymous complaint — where a malicious accusation can be made with total impunity. Innocent people can be severely harmed: even if not prosecuted, their names can easily get onto one of the ever-proliferating computer records.

The use of anonymous informers is nothing new. It was a notorious feature of the old Soviet system; and was not used only against political dissent. In the early 1980s, the authorities in certain Soviet cities went so far as to distribute postcards which informers could send, unsigned, to the police denouncing their neighbours for living dishonestly.

Anonymous informers failed to stem Soviet corruption. But they did much to discredit the Soviet regime — partly because of the scope offered to citizens for settling personal scores. Eventually, however, this distasteful tradition was ended. It was laid down, under a decree of February 2, 1988, that unsigned complaints would no longer be examined. The officially stated reason was that "anonymous slanders" were incompatible with "open and free discussion".

Comparisons are never exact. But the new "beat-a-cheat" hotline is unpleasantly similar to what has just been described. Even if it wins votes, it's most unlikely to win respect.

Yours truly,
DAVID WEDGWOOD BENN,
St Andrew's House,
113 Mycenae Road, SE3.
August 11.

From Mr Paul Ashton

Sir, The setting up of a separate fraud line for the reporting of employers who pay very low wages to workers whom they encourage to continue signing on for the dole is welcome.

However, there are likely to be even more of these employers if a national minimum wage were to be introduced, following a Labour win at the next election. There will be a greater temptation for small employers to resort to this kind of collusive fraud, as an alternative to paying uncompetitive rates for marginally productive workers. The more honest will simply fold.

Which throws up another possibility: some of the expected savings in dole payments from the exposure of these fraudsters may be illusory. If a black-economy worker is caught drawing dole money while working for £1-£2 an hour, he is unlikely to continue in that job at that rate. And his employer is unlikely to be able to pay him the national minimum wage of £4 or so. The worker will, then, continue to be unemployed. Where is the saving there?

Yours faithfully,
PAUL ASHTON,
37 Benbow Avenue, Langney Point,
Eastbourne, East Sussex.
August 10.

From Mr Christopher Morgan

Sir, To monitor and enforce the standards of conduct now to be expected from our MPs, I suggest the setting up of a public standards hotline.

Everyone would be encouraged, by a vigorous national advertising campaign, to report any suspected cheating on benefits, expenses, spouses and mistresses.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER MORGAN,
13 Laurel Road, SW13.
August 10.

Labour and tax

From Ms Clare Short, MP for Birmingham, Ladywood, (Labour)

Sir, Mr Portillo's article today, "The eyes have it — not the lips", contains an example of the way in which lies become common currency. Some months ago I said that people like me should pay a bit more tax. I have no dependents, my mortgage was paid off when my husband died and I have income on top of my MP's salary.

Mr Portillo states that I favour higher taxes for those on £30,000 per year. This is a lie.

Yours faithfully,
CLARE SHORT,
House of Commons.
August 13.

Life on Mars

From Mr K. S. Nash

Sir, You suggest (leading article, August 8; see also letters, August 9) that "once the idea of a benevolent Creator is abandoned" conclusions that mankind is not alone in the Universe are mathematically inevitable.

But why on earth should I lose faith in God because we have just another indication that the story in Genesis is fiction, a view many of us have accepted for a long while? We still see God as the only way by which life could have got going, whether here or elsewhere.

Yours sincerely,
K. S. NASH,
10 Croad Court, 6a High Street,
Fareham, Hampshire.
August 9.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Reflections on Roman times and what they mean today

From Professor Emerita Rebecca V. Colman

Sir, The Roman conquest may have been "a Good Thing" (leading article, August 5), but isn't it time we stopped denigrating our English forebears ("Anglo-Saxon pirate hordes") who also conquered Britain? This was no mean feat, given the Roman system of fortress towns connected by good Roman roads that confronted them.

Times are changing: "British" is no longer synonymous with "English"; and to keep the record clear, it was an Englishman, A. H. Barker, who rediscovered in the early years of this century the hypocast principle of Roman central heating.

Yours faithfully,
REBECCA V. COLMAN,
University of Toronto,
Department of History,
Toronto,
August 9.

From Dr M. C. Bishop

Sir, Your report of the recent discovery of a new Roman fort in Norfolk (August 7) described it as having defences which included "three deep ditches and a timber palisade". The superb aerial photograph clearly shows that a more likely interpretation would be a single defensive ditch with double internal palisade trenches, typical of so-called box ramparts (once thought rare in late-century AD Britain, but increasingly commonly found).

Genuine triple-ditched military sites of such an early date are conspicuous by their rarity.

The assertion that "Roman spears were designed to break on landing" is an oversimplification, probably arising from the (often repeated) misinterpretation of the function of the intermediary pilum. This was designed to penetrate shield and armour and the long iron shank frequently bent after (but

not upon) impact, due to the weight of the wooden shaft. All other Roman spears were much more robust.

Yours faithfully,
M. C. BISHOP,
Braemar, Kirkcaldy,
Chirnside, Duns, Berwickshire.
August 8.

From Mr Pete Garnett

Sir, Alan Hamilton ("Unruly Tykes stretched 9th Legion to the limit", report, August 7) states that Yorkshire was fine when it was run by a woman.

Cardimandua was queen of the Brigantes in a Celtic society where women had rights of opinion, inheritance etc, and could be warriors and chiefs.

The Roman invader gave no rights to women. Despite this, she dealt with them willingly. I think that Hamilton makes the common mistake of equating civilisation with technical development and comfort. The Celts were relatively civilised. The Romans set back human rights — and particularly women's rights — by a thousand years, with more than a little help from Cardimandua.

No wonder Yorkshire Cricket Club is suspicious of women in power.

Sincerely,
T. P. GARNETT (Tyke in exile),
31 Bewdley Street,
Evesham, Worcestershire.
August 9.

From Mr J. P. Upstone

Sir, Your article on Verulamium (August 6) says that "Among the first to dismantle the fortifications were the builders of the cathedral, who were short of material".

The Norman abbey at St Albans was not started until 1077 (admittedly using the remaining rubble of astonishingly durable Roman brick and tile, also flint, at Verulamium), some

660 years at least after the Romans had left. Ample time, I would have thought, for the ruins to have been thoroughly plundered by all and sundry in the interim.

If it had not been for the custodianship of the Benedictines from Anglo-Saxon times onwards there might well have been even less left than is apparent today.

Yours truly,
JOHN UPSTONE,
5 Hall Place Gardens,
St Albans, Hertfordshire.
August 6.

From Mrs Maria Barenienne

Sir, Emma Wilkins ("Merciless fury of a queen scorned", August 6) writes that the word *boudica* in Celtic, from which the name Boudicca derives, means "victory". In my Lithuanian language *bauda* (feminine) means "the punishment". *Baudikas* (feminine) and *baudikas* (masculine) mean "punishment" and "punisher". Boudicca punished the Roman invaders.

The Lithuanian word seems nearer to her action than the Celtic word, but the result would surely have made her people feel victorious, so that Boudicca became synonymous with Victoria.

Yours sincerely,
MARIA BARENIENTE,
31 Drayton Road, W13.
August 9.

From Mr Stanley D. McDonald

Sir, The Roman arch at Lincoln (photograph, August 3) "still stands", as the caption puts it, by virtue of having been rebuilt from numbered pieces.

It was seriously damaged by a lorry full of fish fingers from Grimsby in July 1963 and had to be taken down.

Yours sincerely,
STANLEY D. McDONALD,
68 Sandown Lodge,
Avenue Road, Epsom, Surrey.
August 3.

Woolf proposals for speeding justice

From Mr T. M. Halliwell

Sir, Professor Zander is wise to question the feasibility of Lord Woolf's proposals for streamlining the civil justice system ("Woolf report in sheep's clothing", Law, August 6). As he indicates, the real issue is who pays for civil justice — society, litigants, practising lawyers, or a combination of all three?

Imposing artificially brief time limits or artificially low cost limits on solicitors, and to a lesser extent on the Bar, implies that the legal profession charges too much for what it does and must do more for less. We live in a high-wage economy; properly prepared litigation cannot be rushed.

The proposed reforms broadly intended to shift the disparity between the real costs of a case and the nominal costs dictated by the court on to solicitors, most of whose margins, in the case of high street practitioners, are pretty thin already. The result will be that an already strained profession will be unable to fund the new system. Where, anyway, will conditional-fee cases stand when the costs position becomes even less attractive and un-

certain than it now is?

The equation is one of cost benefit. At what level of case-value is it worth paying for a lawyer? We speak of costs of £2,000 to £3,000, as though that is an enormous amount. Yet it cannot finance the 30-to-40 hours work by several people in an average solicitor's firm that an even moderately complex civil case requires. It does not finance a single judge's salary for two weeks.

There is a simple and cost-effective solution: lift the arbitration threshold to £25,000. Parties can then employ a solicitor, if they so wish, at their own expense and judge the cost-benefit equation themselves.

There are many senior members of my profession who would be happy and well able to conduct arbitrations as deputy district judges. This would give a flexible response to case demand, without the need for, or cost of, permanent appointments.

Yours faithfully,
T. M. HALLIWELL,
T. M. Halliwell (solicitors),
10 Corn Square,
Leominster, Herefordshire.
August 6.

Value of juries

From Mr Kiron Reid

Sir, The acquittal of three women charged with criminal damage to a Hawk jet (report, July 31; letters, August 6) reveals all that is best about the British jury system — the ability of the jury to reach a perverse verdict. The system may sometimes appear anachronistic, but this example has shown the jury's broader role in achieving justice.

"Disarming" the jet, even if it had been by dismantling parts of it, is still damage: a machine may be damaged by removing some part so that it will not work although no part is removed or broken (Smith & Hogan, *Criminal Law*, 15th ed., p 684).

Furthermore, the argument that the machine may be damaged by removing some part so that it will not work although no part is removed or broken (Smith & Hogan, *Criminal Law*, 15th ed., p 684).

Saving Royal Yacht

From Sir Philip Goodhart

Sir, I share your enthusiasm for the Cadland project's proposal for a high-tech traditional and modern replacement for the Royal Yacht *Britannia* (leading article, August 3). As the present chairman of the strategy committee of Flagship Portsmouth, the body that looks after the historic dockyard at Portsmouth, I also support your argument that "the old *Britannia* should clearly be berthed at Portsmouth or Greenwich".

I fear that you may be over-optimistic, however, when you go on to suggest that "the income from the old yacht could help to support the new one". A survey carried out for Flagship Portsmouth suggested that the old *Britannia* could pay her own way as a tourist attraction and conference centre but that at least £8 million would be needed for conversion costs and site preparation. The highest maintenance standards would have to be adhered to which would be so expensive as to limit possible profit.

This does not mean that the idea of preserving the old *Britannia* at Portsmouth or Greenwich should be rejected. Apart from her unique connection with the Royal Family, *HM Britannia* is a ship of exceptional beauty and this country has not preserved a single

protesters were using reasonable force in the prevention of crime (in Indonesia) is tenuous, despite what Mr John Tracy Kelly's letter maintains.

This jury has joined the ranks of those prepared to use a verdict as a tool of common sense in defiance of oppressive or unjust authorities (in this case a government that is happy to sell lethal weapons to a regime committing atrocities).

It is precisely because of their ability occasionally to deliver perverse verdicts that juries should be retained for the 21st century.

Yours faithfully,
KIRON REID,
University of Liverpool,
Faculty of Law,
Liverpool L69 3BX.
August 9.

passenger-carrying ocean-going ship that was built in the 20th century.

Recently there was much dismay because it was feared that £8 million could not be raised from public and private sources to stop Canova's statue, *The Three Graces*, from being exported. I expect many people will share my view that the old *Britannia* is a more important part of this country's history and heritage than Canova's statue.

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP GOODHART,
Warrior Preservation Trust,
Victory Gate, HM Naval Base,
Portsmouth, Hampshire.
August 5.

From Dr John Perfect

Sir, Would it be possible for public paid visits to be made to the Royal Yacht *Britannia* to preserve a beautiful and great achievement of this century? I feel it would be a distinguished asset for the future history of Great Britain.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN PERFECT,
Clipper Cottage, Point Green,
Devoran, nr Truro, Cornwall.
August 12.

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

Olympic gold

From Mr Michael Ward

Sir, I suggest that a gold medal should have been awarded at this year's Olympics to India, 68th in the medals league (report, Sports, August 5), for giving precedence to national needs over nationalism.

Even the most cursory analysis of the medals tally underlines the close correlation between athletic success and state and commercial sponsorship. Since state sponsorship is becoming increasingly constrained in poor countries by budgetary considerations and commercial sponsorship is dependent on high levels of consumerism, it is apparent that low-income countries such as India will face increasing problems both in fielding athletes capable of the required standards and in supporting their participation.

Future Olympics will inevitably become less and less international — the very antithesis of the vision of Baron de Coubertin.

Sincerely,
MICHAEL WARD,
520 N St SW,
Washington DC 20024.
August 9.

Atlas of dialects

From Mr Philip Tilling

Sir, All the examples cited in your entertaining report of August 6, "Nowt so queer as the words some folk use", together with the basic data for the accompanying map, may be found in the regional volumes of the *Survey of English Dialects*, established in 1946 by Professor Harold Orton of the University of Leeds and Professor Eugen Dieth of Zurich and published between 1962 and 1971.

After the death of Professor Dieth in 1956, Orton (with a team of assistants) continued the collection of dialect materials, which he then edited for publication for the benefit of later scholars. It had always been his intention to publish all his dialect materials in atlas form and two selective atlases were, in fact, published under his supervision.

As one who worked with Orton for eight years, I feel certain that he would welcome with enthusiasm the new *Atlas of English Dialects*, compiled by two of his former colleagues, which occasioned your report.

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP TILLING,
The University of Ulster,
Department of English Studies,
Coleraine,
Co Londonderry BT52 1SA.
August 9.

Grossly overweight?

From Mr G. D. Harcourt

Sir, The letter from the Chairman of the British Weights and Measures Association (August 5) reminds me of my late uncle, Mr H. L. Cox, a senior scientific officer at the National Physical Laboratory. Some 30 years ago, while determining with other committee members of the British Standards Institution the standard for metric screw threads for adoption in this country, he asked how they were to be packed. "Boxes of 144" was the reply.

Yours faithfully,
GEOFFREY HARCOURT,
The Old Vicarage,
Benson, Oxfordshire.
August 5.

OBITUARIES

Sir Anthony Parsons, GCMG, LVO, MC, diplomat, died on August 12 aged 73. He was born on September 9, 1922.

Anthony Parsons was in turn a professional soldier, a much-loved and successful diplomat who contributed greatly to the success of the Falklands campaign of 1982, adviser to the Prime Minister and, in retirement, a distinguished commentator and student of international affairs.

In a *Times* review of *The Pride and the Fall*, Parsons's account of his years as Ambassador to Iran from 1974 to 1979, David Owen, who had been Foreign Secretary at the time, observed that "the worst public servants are those who never risk a judgment, who always hedge their bets. The best, and Anthony Parsons was among the very best, pose the right questions but are also ready to give the wrong answers." Owen went on to remark that it was a tribute to Parsons's professional skills that he was able to command the affection and regard of people as diverse as himself, Lord Carrington and Margaret Thatcher.

Anthony Parsons was educated at King's School, Canterbury. He served with the Royal Artillery throughout the war, winning an MC in his last year, accepting a regular commission thereafter and going on to study Arabic at the Army's expense at Balliol College, Oxford. He used his Arabic in a number of military appointments, the last of them as assistant military attaché in the Embassy in Baghdad.

But in 1954, at the relatively late age of 32, Parsons transferred to the Foreign Service and embarked on a series of Middle Eastern appointments of increasing seniority and importance. He brought to them an incisive intelligence, military precision, a gentle warmth of personality and an openness of mind about international affairs relative-

ly rare in those distant days. By the time he was 43, and Political Agent in Bahrain, he had made himself one of the Foreign Office's leading authorities on Middle Eastern affairs.

From Bahrain, Parsons was transferred in 1969 to the British Mission in New York and as Counsellor there started to add United Nations experience to his Middle Eastern expertise. He stayed in New York for three years, and served thereafter for a further three in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London. But in 1974, at the age of 52, he was appointed Ambassador to Iran.

It is difficult to recall at this distance the expectations that were heaped on Iran in those last years before the fall of the Shah. The first great oil price rise had brought the country wealth; the Shah's ambitions promised it modernity; the exporters and investors of Europe and North America rushed to fill its requirements for infrastructural development and military equipment. Parsons flung himself and his mission into Britain's export drive, always conscious, as he said afterwards, that tanks sold to the Shah meant employment in the tank factories of Leeds (indeed, at one point the Shah's Army was receiving from British factories a more up-to-date mark of the Chieftain main battle tank than that with which the Royal Armoured Corps was being equipped).

But the Shah's headlong drive to modernise his country was bringing an Islamic reaction, just as the corruption of his court and Government was provoking his people to a throne-threatening anger. Parsons played a forthright role in the Shah's last months, provoking the Secretary of State, himself no shrinking violet, to send him a plain telegram in which Dr Owen offered to carry more of the burden of public representation of British policy towards Iran himself.

The Shah fell and the great Iranian adventure was over. Par-

SIR ANTHONY PARSONS



Parsons as British Ambassador to the United Nations outlines his Government's position on the Falkland Islands, 1982

sons came home, to admit that his concern for exports might have fatally distracted his attention and that of his mission from the more fundamental political issues on which the Shah's fate, and Britain's position in Iran, in the end depended. He brought to failure, as later to success, absolute honesty and clarity of analysis.

In 1979, Parsons went to New York as Ambassador to the United Nations. In his three years there he built on his earlier United Nations experience a great personal authority. Other British ambassadors have done as much. Parsons succeeded in winning the affection as well as the respect of colleagues from every kind of country and

every kind of background. He was a man entirely without pretension, and his transparent honesty of purpose stood out in council chambers much given to posuring. Parsons was due to retire from New York and from the Diplomatic Service in September 1982. But in April of that year the Falklands crisis broke on an unsuspecting

world, and the British Mission to the United Nations found itself at the centre of frenzied diplomatic activity.

In the weeks between the Argentine coup and the recovery of the islands, Parsons completely out-boxed the Argentine representative and others at the United Nations whose instincts led them to see the

Falklands as a colonial issue, in which Britain must inevitably be in the wrong. He dealt as masterfully with the British Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher, asking her at one fraught crisis meeting at Chequers to refrain from interrupting him. For Parsons, as for his colleague in the Embassy in Washington, Nicholas Henderson, the Falklands issue offered a spectacular finale to a distinguished diplomatic career.

On his retirement Parsons accepted an invitation from the Prime Minister to serve as her special adviser on foreign affairs. In the year which he spent at No10 he did what he could to defuse the Prime Minister's suspicions of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and the equally lively suspicions that sometimes flowed in the opposite direction across Downing Street.

But Parsons had planned to devote his retirement to reading and to study. He and his wife established themselves at Ashburton on the edge of Dartmoor, and from his home there flowed regular press and television comment on international affairs. He published two memoirs based on his Middle East experiences. He became a research fellow and lecturer at the University of Exeter and the chairman of the David Davies Memorial Institute for International Studies. His old college at Oxford made him an honorary fellow, and for four years he served on the board of the British Council.

All Parsons's work in retirement, as his work in the Diplomatic Service, was characterised by a gentle and urbane liberalism, an interest in the other man's point of view, and a concern for the underdog. He was appointed LVO in 1965, GCMG in 1968, and advanced to GCMG in 1982. In 1948 he married Sheila Baird, who gave him a close and supportive marriage, two sons and two daughters.

MARSHAL ANTONIO DE SPÍNOLA

Marshal Antonio de Spínola, President of Portugal from May to September 1974, died in hospital in Lisbon yesterday aged 86. He was born in Estremoz on April 11, 1910.

When Antonio de Spínola was called to the helm of the Portuguese state in the spring of 1974, it was to end the country's 48-year-old dictatorship and to start Portugal on the irreversible path to democracy. The accession of Spínola as head of government seemed symbolic in many ways, not just for Portugal but for the whole of Europe.

He was one of Portugal's most brilliant and brave soldiers. He had been one of the most tenacious prosecutors of Portugal's counter-insurrectionary wars in its African colonies. He was deeply conservative and proud of the military culture which had nurtured him.

Yet, even before he toppled the last representative of the

dictatorial regime, Marcelo Caetano, he had perceived, as many in the Portuguese Army and Government failed to do, that Portuguese colonialism had had its day.

It was his revolutionary tract, *Portugal and the Future*, published in February 1974, which set forth his conviction that the repressive regime of the dictatorship, as it operated against nationalist aspirations in Africa, was both morally wrong and, in practice, impossible to sustain. His ideas, pungently expressed, ushered in the final act in the retreat of European colonialism from Africa.

Yet the joy which greeted Spínola in Portugal was not to be long sustained, notwithstanding the paternalistic popularity he seemed to command across the entire nation. What had started out as a liberalising crusade against long years of wasteful autocracy was quickly to collapse in ignominy and personal humiliation. Within five months Spínola had resigned the pres-

idency, claiming that he could not carry on in a climate of anarchy.

The truth was that the Portuguese Army's most brilliant tactician had been completely outmanoeuvred by junior officers who had much greater political acumen than he did, and much more specific ideas of how they intended to exercise their power. He had none of their left-wing revolutionary fervour, and as events unfolded swiftly in the days after the April revolution it became clear that they were impatient of his gradualist notions of the revolutionary process. When it became clear to him that the price of staying in power would mean the acceptance of Communists in his Government, he resigned on the last day of September.

His period of leadership had lasted barely five months. A later attempt by him to stage a coup — of the right-wing this time — ended equally ignominiously. Antonio Sebastião Ribeiro de Spínola was born into a

well-to-do family in the town of Estremoz in the mountainous Alto Alentejo region. After attending the Lisbon Military Academy, he went on to the officers' training school from which he passed out in 1932 and joined a cavalry regiment. A fine horseman, and later to be a nationally renowned figure through his stern visage and its accompanying monocle, Spínola represented Portugal's national showjumping team on many occasions.

During his early years, he was a faithful upholder of the right-wing regime of the dictator Antonio Salazar, who rewarded him with accelerated promotion. He commanded Portuguese troops in Angola during the anti-guerrilla war between 1961 and 1964.

There he sowed the seeds of his reputation as a soldier's general, astonishing his troops by leaping first from his helicopter into fire-swept combat zones and by the obduracy with which he led them in the arid bush, often going for days without re-

Professional soldiers adored him; conscripts loathed him.

Yet he was no mere gung-ho commander. When, in 1972, he was appointed Commander of the Portuguese Armed Forces in Guinea, he demonstrated a far-sighted humanity towards those whom the Portuguese Government was committed to liquidate. In Guinea, he became more and more convinced that the solution for the colonial wars should be a political rather than a military one. Ignoring his orders, which were to "wipe out the African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde" (PAIGC), he began negotiations with them and attempted to bring more Africans into the life of the territory.

Spínola went to all of the negotiations unarmed to show his good faith. Even after the PAIGC assassinated Portuguese officers he maintained his position regarding the Africans.

Unfortunately the negotiations with the PAIGC failed. Still, he advocated a "community of nations made up of Portugal and its African territories in which self-determination for those territories would be recognised". In 1971 he came to Lisbon to try to convince the Prime Minister, Marcelo Caetano, that the war in Guinea could not be won. He was not listened to.

In 1972 Spínola led an aborted invasion of Conakry to overthrow the regime of the President of the Guinea Republic, Sekou Touré. Later, when the secretary-general of the PAIGC, Amílcar Cabral, was assassinated in January of 1973, the PAIGC leaders ordered the murder. It was later proved that members within the movement itself were responsible.

In September 1973 Spínola resigned as Governor of Guinea, citing as the reason "the lack of support by the central Government in Lisbon for his



Spínola arriving at the presidential palace in Lisbon on May 15, 1974

policy of increasing participation of the African people in building an enlarged African-Luso-Brazilian community".

When Spínola's book, *Portugal and the Future*, appeared it immediately encouraged the "young captains", in the Army who were plotting a revolution, to carry it out. On April 25, 1974, they marched on Lisbon and deposed the government. The Prime Minister, holed up in the Carmo fortress in Lisbon, agreed to surrender to Spínola and was escorted to an aircraft to go to exile in Brazil.

Spínola was named President of the Junta of National Salvation. On May 15, 1974, he was named President of Portu-

gal. But by September, with a rash of strikes, demonstrations, occupations of factories and other Communist-inspired acts — anathema to a man so wedded to the notion of order as he was — he felt compelled to resign.

On March 11, 1975, he took part in an attempted right-wing coup to oust the Communists. But the coup failed and Spínola fled to Spain and resigned from the Army. He then sought exile in Brazil where he founded the Democratic Movement for the Liberation of Portugal (MDLP).

After the Communists and other leftist groups were put down on November 25, 1975, by moderate military officers

and political parties, he returned to Portugal and dissolved the MDLP. On February 27, 1978, he reinstated himself in the Army and in 1981 was made a Marshal.

For many years he could be seen on horseback in a park outside Lisbon, as upright and military as he had been for more than half a century. He was admitted to hospital last year. His last public appearance was in March last year when he received by his hospital bed his old PAIGC enemy, President Nuno Vieira of Guinea-Bissau.

Antonio de Spínola is survived by his wife Maria Monteiro de Barros. They had no children.

PERSONAL COLUMN

TICKETS FOR SALE TICKETS FOR SALE advertisements readers are advised to establish the fact before entering into any commitment. Most sports tickets are subject to strict resale and transfer rules.	TICKETS FOR SALE All AVAILABLE: Phoenix, Oliver, all... All AVAILABLE: Phoenix, Oliver, all... All AVAILABLE: Phoenix, Oliver, all...	WANTED MODEL Ford Van from Secretary's... MODEL Ford Van from Secretary's... MODEL Ford Van from Secretary's...	FLIGHTS DIRECTORY EMBASSY FLIGHT CENTRE All flights to and from... All flights to and from... All flights to and from...	FLIGHTS DIRECTORY FLYLINE All flights to and from... All flights to and from... All flights to and from...
ABSOLUTELY ALL TICKETS Last Night Proms Bought & Sold... Last Night Proms Bought & Sold... Last Night Proms Bought & Sold...	FOR SALE THE VIKING - 1974-1994... THE VIKING - 1974-1994... THE VIKING - 1974-1994...	OVERSEAS TRAVEL PORTGATE & CHAMBERS... PORTGATE & CHAMBERS... PORTGATE & CHAMBERS...	FLIGHTS DIRECTORY WORLDWIDE All flights to and from... All flights to and from... All flights to and from...	ANNOUNCEMENTS YOUR WILL If you are making your will... If you are making your will... If you are making your will...
TICKETS Test Cricket, Int. Rugby... Test Cricket, Int. Rugby... Test Cricket, Int. Rugby...	MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS MUSIC... MUSIC... MUSIC...	UK HOLIDAYS AVAILABLE... AVAILABLE... AVAILABLE...	FLIGHTS DIRECTORY WORLDWIDE All flights to and from... All flights to and from... All flights to and from...	ANNOUNCEMENTS YOUR WILL If you are making your will... If you are making your will... If you are making your will...
TICKETS All Cricket, Rugby 5 Nations... All Cricket, Rugby 5 Nations... All Cricket, Rugby 5 Nations...	ANTIQUE & COLLECTABLES IMPORTANT COLLECTION... IMPORTANT COLLECTION... IMPORTANT COLLECTION...	CAPITAL FLIGHTS Available... Available... Available...	FLIGHTS DIRECTORY WORLDWIDE All flights to and from... All flights to and from... All flights to and from...	ANNOUNCEMENTS YOUR WILL If you are making your will... If you are making your will... If you are making your will...
TICKETS LAST NIGHT OF PROMS... LAST NIGHT OF PROMS... LAST NIGHT OF PROMS...	FLATSHARE Available... Available... Available...	CAPITAL FLIGHTS Available... Available... Available...	FLIGHTS DIRECTORY WORLDWIDE All flights to and from... All flights to and from... All flights to and from...	ANNOUNCEMENTS YOUR WILL If you are making your will... If you are making your will... If you are making your will...
TICKETS LAST NIGHT OF PROMS... LAST NIGHT OF PROMS... LAST NIGHT OF PROMS...	FLATSHARE Available... Available... Available...	CAPITAL FLIGHTS Available... Available... Available...	FLIGHTS DIRECTORY WORLDWIDE All flights to and from... All flights to and from... All flights to and from...	ANNOUNCEMENTS YOUR WILL If you are making your will... If you are making your will... If you are making your will...

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 All flights to and from...
 All flights to and from...

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METROPOLITAN MUDDLE

It is rather singular that we, who of all nations are the most fond of travel, and who pride ourselves on the facility with which we can circumnavigate the globe, do not yet know how to get from one end of our own metropolis to the other.

The pedestrian who has beaten his Alpine guides in climbing, who has followed the trail of the bushmen and overtaken them, and who has kept pace with the Sioux as he hunted through the prairie, when he comes back to England may find it difficult to conduct a lady to the piano-forte without jostling a cartable, kicking down the chairs, and stumbling on to the music-stool; and we, whose fleets have crossed every sea, whose caravans have traversed every land, who have given steamships and railroads and telegraphs to the world, who go to India in a month and to America in ten

ON THIS DAY

August 14, 1856

One suggestion for improving traffic flow in London was to increase the "tramroad" network, providing cheap and uniform fares "to free us from some 4,000 to 5,000 horses that now block up our streets".

days—who, in a word, have brought the art of locomotion to the highest perfection, do not know how to move along our own streets.

We wonder when the metropolitan mind will fully comprehend such facts as these—that from Hyde Park to London-bridge the distance is a third of the way to Brighton, and that from his office to Paddington is a third of the

distance from Paddington to Oxford. A Hansom cab will not drive to either of these stations from the places named in less than half an hour, and in an hour and a half a railway journey of 60 miles is regularly accomplished. Does it never occur to any one that this is not merely a great inconvenience, but a great disgrace to us? Does it never occur to those who say to their country cousins, "Ah, you should see the carriages in Cheapside", and who point with exultation to the dead lock there, that there ought to be no dead lock, and that it is our shame, not our glory?

Our whole street system is most discreditable, and it would be well if those who have hitherto been thinking only of the antiques and the North Pole, how to cut through the Isthmus of Suez, and how to reach the Pacific by Panama, were to begin at home, and attempt to solve the still more important problem of metropolitan transit.

Why the daytime chat show just keeps on talking

Is there life on a television sofa?

Just how mysterious a science can television be, now that we have a better steer on whether there was once life on Mars than on whether there is any still left in the chat show? Do these programmes really deserve all the abuse they get?

And if they do, why is someone as tell-smart as Alan Yentob today expected to unveil yet another one — hosted by Julie Goodyear — to be inserted into the BBC's autumn daytime schedules?

It's true that more and more chat show guests turn out to be untrustworthy, preening, fame-hungry charlatans, but many shows don't have any MPs on at all.

In TV's equivalent of a Nass probe mission, Channel 4 felt it had settled the argument when it launched, and later buried, Gaby Roslin's Saturday night chats if Gaby couldn't locate life on the sofa, nobody could. Then, suddenly, the BBC gleefully revealed the BBC poached Clive Anderson from Channel 4 to host a "new" chat show that sounds just like his old Clive Anderson Talks Back.

Now why would Alan Yentob do that if the chat show didn't still have a pulse?

Yet even Anderson felt that he needed to explain why this supposed mummy of a format was being unbanned by the BBC.

Yet again: "Everyone says the chat show is a dead form. But I do what I do and if people want to watch, that's great."

Which is about as close as television science really gets to "me".

Last Friday, BBC1 began a second crawl through its *Parkinson Show* archives to give us Parky's Peter Sellers interview. So, is showing a 20-year-old interview proof that we all still enjoy the chat show formula? Or just confirmation that the format is so dodgy that nobody does it properly any more, and that we must therefore spend the rest of our lives pining for Parky and Parky?

The former, I think. The BBC's two new autumn arrivals certainly won't feel lonely: flick through TV listings and you'll find scores of chat-based shows.

We know that such shows are cheap to make, but they are also popular. Telly executives who claim the chat show is dead are like those explorers who don't believe in the Loch Ness monster, but still spend years hunting for the beast.

Why? Because when chat shows work, they work spectacularly. Even the derided ones. Take *Oprah*. Yes, there may be slits and nuts in *Oprah Winfrey's* studio alongside her more glamorous celebrities, but ratings are huge. *Oprah* may not be your

taste in chat show, but pink hotpants may not be your taste in clothes, or Oasis your taste in music: that doesn't mean they aren't somebody else's.

Many Hollywood movies may seem crass to you, but that is no reason to declare the film industry dead, less still to shut it down in despair and spend the rest of our lives watching flickering black-and-white reruns of *Casablanca*.

America's David Letterman is so successful that Sky, which broadcasts his nightly show on Sky 1, is switching it to its new Sky 2 channel in the hope that loyal fans will follow him and thus create an audience base for Sky 2.

If Jonathan Ross and Danny Baker are no longer in the host's seat, that is only because they stole Letterman's tricks without conjuring up any of his magic.

Clive Anderson was more successful in apeing Letterman, but he is not the only interviewer going strong in England. Old Fogey Frost is still a magnet for big names. The writer A.N. Wilson once called him "king of them all. He can talk with kings, but does not lose the common touch — in his case, a very common touch indeed". If Frost is not as well-known as he once was, this is not because the big interview is dead, just that others have become more famous practitioners. Larry King's show on CNN has made its name because politicians such as Ross Perot even announce their presidential plans on it.

Television chat has always been half-way into its coffin. "Before I started the *Parkinson Show* in 1971 it was rumoured the talk show had had it," Parkinson recalls. "and when I finished 11 years later it was generally accepted I had killed it off." Parky thinks today's stars are overexposed (a case of "the talk show's still big, it's the stars that got small"), but even he doesn't think the format is dead.

Jonathan Ross's argument is that in the days of Parky and Russell Harty, stars had few places to parade themselves. Now they have plenty. "The problem isn't what new talk shows do," he says, "it's just that it's all so readily available elsewhere." But surely that's a sign of their strength, not weakness: chat shows are so successful that TV executives keep commissioning more.

Look, if people are willing, week after week, to watch a chat show even if it is hosted by Des O'Connor, then audiences must be awfully keen on the idea.

● Brenda Maddox is on holiday.



JOE JOSEPH

One paper for the weekend?

UNDAUNTED by nose-diving circulation figures, ever-optimistic ideas men at the *Sunday Express* are now planning to produce their flagging organ not once but twice a week.

Sue Douglas, the Editor, cheered by her aborted twin scoop, has been briefed to draw up a feasibility plan to produce what would effectively be Britain's first two-day Sunday newspaper.

Under a scheme apparently inspired by Lord Holford, the *Daily Express* would become a five-day operation, from Monday to Friday, and the *Sunday Express* would take over Saturday and Sunday as a weekend paper.

With rumours growing that Richard Stott, former Editor of *Today*, is about to join Express Newspapers, it is not clear who would oversee such a daring venture. "We are not entirely confident that Sue will be around to see the fruits of her labour," says a staffer.

THE LISTENER

THE NEWS BEHIND THE HEADLINES



Michael Howard: complaint



Billy Connolly: on his trike

● THE pouting creatures who inhabit *Vogue House* are in a terrible tizzy. Chaos reigns as gremlins run riot in the Internet service used by the style slaves of *Vogue* and the girls of *Tatler*. Contributors' copy fails to appear, messages sent around the globe do not arrive and editorial staff are on the verge of mutiny.

"The system keeps going down, but nobody tells us so we go on trying to use it and then wonder why no one replies and articles are late," wails one. "The company has just spent a fortune building a roof garden with plastic hedges but we can't communicate properly." The world of fashion is clearly teetering on the brink of a cyber abyss.

● NEVER let it be said that *London Underground* aren't a bunch of softies underneath that ruthless exterior. Keen to preserve the institution of marriage, Tube bosses have donated free advertising space to *London Marriage Guidance* to run a £75,000 poster campaign later this year.

The fact that recent strike action has put considerable strain on the home lives of *London Underground* staff apparently had no influence whatsoever on the kind of gesture.

Return to lender A DRACONIAN new regime has been introduced at the BBC archives in an attempt to stem the losses of material borrowed by members of staff and never seen again. Fines of £50 will be incurred on overdue cassettes and a minimum charge of £100 demanded when it becomes apparent that an item has gone for ever. "We believe we can encourage a more responsible attitude," a spokesman says.

a misunderstanding, two of his opponents appeared the day after Mr Howard. The Home Office made an official complaint to the BBC.

Staff have now been told they must be "precise in the terms of any invitations issued" and not to renege on promises. Presumably Mr Howard will be issuing the same edict to his own colleagues.

● BT's disappointment that the Scottish comedian Billy Connolly will not now be starting in its latest "It's good to talk" campaign has been tempered somewhat by his recent appearance at Princess Beatrice's birthday party.

Connolly, who never lets his royal connections interfere with his anarchist image, was due to take over from Bob Hoskins next year in the BT TV campaign, but the parties could not agree on the time he would need to commit. All concerned were depressed until Connolly turned up at Sunninghill Park, the Duke of York's home, on a ludicrous motor-bike looking like a reject from a Mad Max film.

"All advertisers want their stars in the newspapers, but not when they look like prat," a BT insider says.

Broken promises

OVER at Radio 4, a tantrum thrown by Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, has resulted in a rap over the knuckles for programme-makers.

Mr Howard had agreed to take part in a series of features on prison policy for *The World Tonight* programme on the understanding that his contribution would be broadcast after those of his critics.

Feet were stamped and accusations of broken promises were hurled when, because of

very thought of the duo being let loose in the ivory-towered temple to advertising that is BBH no doubt makes more than one executive shudder.

HARD on the heels of the second Test against Pakistan we hear of Dickie Bird, the umpire, offering himself up for ads.

Dickie's agent, Nick Leigh at Derek Block Promotions, is promoting the much-loved umpire's trademark Yorkshire wit and honesty to agencies in an attempt to land his first commercial.

"He said to me 'Ey lad, I'd love to do an advertisement, so I've started talking to several ad agencies. He'd be good for a Hovis commercial or something very English,'" Mr Leigh suggests.

BELINDA ARCHER

Reality v blue-chip advertising



Hale and Pace: putting their creative talents to the test

THERE is trouble afoot in adland. A survey by Ogilvy & Mather reveals the plummeting image of the leading blue-chip corporations among the great unwashed.

When asked "How much do you trust the following companies compared to five years ago?", 45 per cent of respondents claimed they had less faith in British Gas, while 20 per cent said they trusted British Airways less than at the beginning of the Nineties.

Bad news, too, for Shell and Marks & Spencer, with 18 per cent saying they had less trust in the companies than five years ago.

"Agencies must be careful what they say about their clients in their advertising, in case it is in conflict with reality and what the public think about them," Nick Jones, a planner at O&M, says.

ADVERTISING

HALE and Pace, the comedy duo, are to try their hand at advertising. The BBC is planning to mount a TV series based on *Jobs for the Girls*, which starred the Birds of a Feather pair Pauline Quirke and Linda Robson. The follow-up, to be called *Jobs for the Boys*, will throw Hale and Pace into a variety of supposedly male professions.

The plan is to send the comedians to work in an advertising agency for several weeks, where they will be charged with writing and filming a commercial for a live client. The ultimate aim is for the ad to be screened.

The Beeb has approached several agencies to host the initiative, including Bartle Bogle Hegarty. However, the

very thought of the duo being let loose in the ivory-towered temple to advertising that is BBH no doubt makes more than one executive shudder.

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Men did not like the impossibly attractive Nick Kamen getting his kit off in the launderette for Levi 501s, although they were rather tickled by the Carling Black Label remake

How to sell to the lads

An old French crooner turns to face you from the television set, his arm wrapped around a mystery blonde half his age, whose face we cannot see. "Ah wurr Mandate because it's sexy and sophisticated," he purrs. After a lecherous pause, he adds: "Don't worry, she's mia waff." And you're one of the door before you can say "Sacha Distel", down to the chemist for a bottle of this miracle lotion and a night on the tiles.

Selling things to men used to be so easy. You just name-checked the product — car, beer, cigarette, after-shave — and told them that it would help them to get women into bed. A sure thing if there ever was one.

But manifestations of New Man, on the back of a marketing drive to make political correctness sexy, nudged things a bit in the early 1990s, when men were briefly encouraged to get in touch with their feminine side. And now, the hooligan beast in all of us suitably exorcised, we are being encouraged to get back into football and fights, and whistle at women in the street. Notions of what constitutes a man have become so confused, in fact, that a conference is being held to sort things out.

For an entry fee of £440, you can go to Men Behaving Normally at Stamford Bridge, home of Chelsea FC, on October 16 and attend "a one-day conference on marketing to younger men".

The organisers have identified a crisis-point. "Beery, cheery, leery," reads the programme, "today's young male

Giles Coren is as confused as the advertisers are about what real men should aspire to in the late Nineties

is the diametric opposite of the much-heralded New Man." Insights are promised into "the phenomenon of young men and what turns them on and what lads become..."

It is just about possible to see what they're talking about. Anyone who remembers "Denim" — for the man who doesn't have to try too hard — and "Old Spice" — the mark of a man — can see that the advertisements for Escape by Calvin Klein, in which an androgynous man-child pores about in a white corridor with an enervated super-model, have arrived from a different marketing planet altogether.

But then there are the Renault Megane ads, in which a car and its driver exchange comments about women's legs, and the Peugeot 306 one which has the woman saying "Wanna show me what it can do?" before falling into an upholstery-clutching orgasmic frenzy.

What is a young man to do to fulfil the lifestyle dream?



Less than subtle ads from the bad old days for Castlemaine XXXX (left) and Denim

What is a young man to do — wash up or beat up?

Wash up or beat up? Love or lech? The confusion has come about since the arrival of the lads' magazines, like *Loaded*, *FHM* and *Maxim*, says Stefano Hatfield, the editor of *Campaign*, which is co-sponsoring the conference.

"The old 'New Man' magazines, *GQ* and *Esquire*, are taking a back seat, and the question we want to answer is 'What turns young men on?'"

"In the early Nineties Rover showed a man using his car to send his baby to sleep. The sexism and crassness of old-fashioned car advertising had to be subdued — advertisers tied themselves in knots to avoid saying that men found women sexy. Now it is OK again, as long as it is disguised as irony."

Chairing the debate is *Maxim*'s editor-in-chief, Gill Hud-

son. "I don't really know what is going to be said," she admits. "The lad magazine created a phenomenon in the market, but men themselves have never changed. They always got pissed, and liked a nice bit of toyt."

"The one thing we do know is that men react very badly to square-jawed hunks holding babies, himbos working out, and men in expensive suits which they could never afford. That eventually got up people's noses. Now it is recognised that humour is the best way to sell things to men."

Thus, presumably, we did not like the impossibly attractive Nick Kamen getting his kit off in the launderette — but we were rather tickled by the Carling Black Label remake, in which two fat, beery lads scorned him for not removing his boxer shorts.



"You have to be careful with generalisations," says Ms Hudson. "The 'new man' and the 'new lad' are really just two extremes that co-exist in most men."

Indeed, the question of what a man is supposed to be is an issue so confused that

Castlemaine has just binned its cocksure Australians wouldn't give a XXXX for any other lager" campaign, for something considerably more subtle, not to say seignior. It is spending £1 million to show nine 30-second advertisements during the Stallone film *Demolition Man* on Saturday, each one representing a different vision of the male consumer. We see successive images of the beer-drinker as a sexual success, a sexual failure, a man on a motorbike, a man on a bicycle, a beautiful young man, an ugly fat man and so on. The campaign is humorous, and the series is clearly meant to be some sort of post-modern joke. But the abiding

impression is that advertisers simply have no idea what men aspire to any more.

Nowhere is this better reflected than in those commercial cleaning products to men. It may be a revolution in itself to put a duster in a man's hand on prime-time television — but if you read the ads closely, the sexual dynamic has not changed a bit.

Think of Mr Muscle. Skinny bloke with glasses can't get smear off windscreen, he sprays this stuff on and hey presto! Product message: Mr Muscle cleans windows quite well. Social message: only wimps do housework.

Think of Persil washing-up liquid. Robbie Coltrane washes up to please his gran. The reason we do not laugh at Coltrane is because we know that he is really Fitz from *Cracker*, and is liable to headbutt us to death.

Most cunning of all are the Flash ads featuring Karl Howman, formerly the cheeky Lothario of the sitcom *Brisketwires*. It is the old DIY in return for sexual favours equation. He does the housework, but only in return for the smoochy attentions of a woman. Not only that, but he is, like all "blokes", lazy, and has tricked her into the embrace by buying Flash. He is smarter than her and better at buying effective products. The woman is still the one in the commercial who gets all excited about a sparkly clean floor. How different is he really from the *Loaded* stereotype who goes to a nightclub and tricks a girl into bed by pretending he runs a model agency?

It's good to talk when you have something to say

Dan Ehrlich on why a US radio formula has failed in Britain

WHENEVER talk radio is discussed in Britain, the term shock/shock jock — American, but not widely used in the United States — pops up. It has become an all-purpose term encapsulating talk radio's relative unpopularity within the industry.

This is illustrated by the fact that Britain has only two commercial 100 per cent speech-based stations (Talk Radio and LBC) and one with 51 per cent speech content (Scott FM).

A lot of this has to do with the pre-eminence of the BBC and its plethora of speech programmes. But, as with most things radically new here, fear of the unknown embeds itself among radio's power brokers.

And, of course, there's the fear of too much power in the hands of the people. Talk radio represents democracy in action — which could mean trouble for the Government. So they settle for music radio or easy, unchallenging phone-ins. The reality is that a true talk radio format has yet to be tried here.

On KFI Radio in Los Angeles, lawyer Bill Handle does not start from one banal subject to another in his daily four-hour show. He spends an hour on "mad cow" disease... Is it for real? Should America have troops in Bosnia and should speaking English be made mandatory throughout the US? He gets the ball rolling with an often lengthy disputation on the topic before going to the phones.

Handle is a liberal so, to be fair to right-wing listeners, he's followed by the now legendary conservative Rush Limbaugh, who speaks the language that many Americans, especially white ones, want to hear. Unfortunately, Limbaugh isn't very funny — except for some of his views.

But this is what real talk radio is about, a strong political and current affairs base, reflecting all parts of the spectrum and anchored by popular light relief shows — agony aunts, sports, legal advice, etc.

Four years ago, the "old" LBC FM station was getting close to a proper talk operation with presenters such as Richard Littlejohn, Mike Carlton, Frank Bough, Angela Rippon and Andrew

Neil. The problem was that they had lots of hard talking but too few phone calls.

The biggest challenge for a programme today is to be noticed on an ever more crowded radio dial, for people to stop and listen. But how long they will listen is the second hurdle — minutes or hours?

People can tune in and tune off a light relief show without a thought. However, a stimulating show highlighted by a running dialogue with a celebrity guest and the public is another matter. It can rivet you or bore you, but won't be frivolous nonsense radio. When the then Talk Radio UK went on air 18 months ago it had a diverse collection of presenters, few fully qualified to talk on news and current affairs. But that didn't matter, because the management

had, in the wake of "shock jock" hysteria, given up any pretensions of creating a station devoted to hard issues and provocative answers.

Yet, six months after the first broadcast, Talk Radio was grabbing 2.3 million listeners, ironically right

where it is today. In fact it has taken 18 months, two holding companies, three programme controllers and a reported £18 million in losses to appoint a well qualified station chief.

Under Paul Robinson, formerly head of strategy and development at the BBC, Talk Radio may climb towards its potential as a current affairs-based station. But any media venture is not a good bet in this country.

There is an enormous market for radio phone-ins shows that will be tapped only when innovative people are willing to take risks by initiating formats. They, in turn, must hire qualified professionals who know how to sell advertising, work with and inspire staff and develop programmes. Most of all they have to know what turns the listeners on. Unfortunately, such people appear to be thin on the ground here.

Dan Ehrlich is a veteran American foreign correspondent and long-time London resident who, for a year, presented a weekly news-based current affairs show on Talk Radio

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Little paper tigers sink their claws into regions

THERE are more than 1,200 regional newspapers in Britain, many edited with the flair and professionalism of any national newspaper. They sell about 70 million copies a week and are read by nine out of ten Britons. Advertisers spend nearly £2 billion a year in them — more than in any medium other than television.

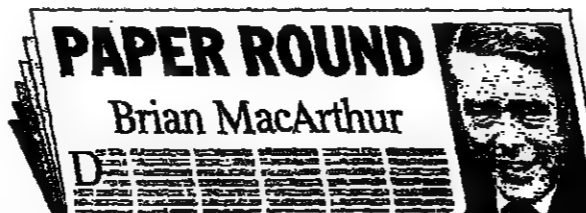
Study their sales, however, and the simplistic conclusion would be that regional newspapers are a smokestack industry in seemingly relentless decline. Sales have declined at about 2 per cent a year for years. Fifteen years ago there were 79 evening newspapers selling nearly 6 million copies a day. Now there are 72 and they sell 4.3 million.

Evening papers in the big cities have been hit the hardest. At best, sales of the evening papers in Liverpool, Birmingham, Leeds and Manchester are only 60 per cent of what they were 20 years ago. The *Manchester Evening News* sold 361,000 copies in 1975. Now it sells 180,000. Only a few smaller papers — in areas such as Shropshire, Torquay, Colchester, Peterborough, Carlisle and Gloucestershire — have bucked the trend. There

are also 400 fewer traditional local weeklies.

Although we tend to dismiss them affectionately as local rags or free sheets, regional and local newspapers are one of Britain's unsung success stories. As Thomson, Reed, Emap and, last week, Pearson (owner of Westminster Press) have decided to quit, regional newspapers have become a glamour industry, attracting £1.3 billion in investment over the past 12 months from some of the sharpest money men in the world.

Trinity International Holdings, owners of the *Liverpool Post* and *Liverpool Echo*, bought most of the Thomson Group for £327 million. The Barclay brothers bought *The Scotsman* for £90 million and Lord Rothermere's Northcliffe Newspapers bought the *Aberdeen Press and Journal* for £82 million. Supported by Kohlberg Kravis Roberts, America's biggest venture



PAPER ROUND
Brian MacArthur

capitalists (and subsequently Britain's biggest, Civen, the Coal Board pension fund, and Newsquest, a company set up by a management buyout, bought Reed's regional newspapers for £205 million and Westminster Press for £305 million. Scottish Television, in which the Mirror Group has a stake, has bought *The Herald* in Glasgow. Johnston Press, based in Edinburgh and still run by a Johnston, spent £211 million on Emap's 65 titles.

The result is that the destiny of Britain's regional newspapers is no longer a peripheral concern of mainly international conglomerates but is under the control of

local news and advertising, according to Mr Brown. Three in four of its titles are already on the Internet. He expects stronger links with the delivery of electronic information and more alliances with local radio.

There are several reasons why managers such as Jim Brown and Philip Graf at Trinity, or owners like Lord Rothermere and Fred Johnston, believe in local newspapers. One is that they are a powerful brand, reaching into the homes of 60 to 80 per cent of the British population every day and 60 to 80 per cent of any region of Britain every week. In the West Country, Northcliffe owns the *Western Morning News* covering Devon, Cornwall and Somerset, evening papers in Exeter and Plymouth, a stake in the *Bristol Evening Post*, three weeklies in Cornwall and one in North Devon, as well as an interest in Westcountry Television.

That is why the new regional newspaper tycoons refer to their papers as franchises, which will develop into "regional information businesses" with access to millions of homes and huge databases on local business, advertisers, subscribers, entertainment, motor dealers and estate agents.

They believe that their brand can only become stronger as the communications industry explodes over the next decade and as the big and small groups form strategic alliances. With smaller, fragmented audiences watching up to 200 television channels, listening to still more radio stations, and electronic information delivered on interactive television sets, they think regional information businesses will be the best means of delivering the niche or regional audiences advertisers seek.

"Commentators tend to describe regional newspapers derisively as a 'mature' industry," says Dugal Nesbet-Smith, director of the Newspaper Society. "If maturity means vision, commitment and professionalism, that's OK with us."

Additional research by Frank Leduc

Rachel Kelly looks at how the architectural achievement of the original Goldfinger is now recognised as part of our national heritage

A modern house in which we can Trust

An unusual addition has joined the National Trust's stable of stables: the Hampstead home of the late Modernist architect, Erno Goldfinger.

Number 2 Willow Road, overlooking the Heath, opened to the public earlier this year for the first time. The National Trust sign seems incongruous as one approaches the squat brick building at the bottom of the curving hill, the central portion of a terrace of three houses.

Yet the Trust insists that it is embracing the Modern Movement. As the curator, Harriet McKay, says, there has been enormous interest in the house from the Trust's 2.5 million members. Tours throughout the day three times a week are routinely full.

"Our members are not only interested in conventional historic houses, but in all types of architecture," she says. "This house has great educational potential which we are beginning to realise. It can be a force for fostering deeper understanding of Modernism."

Many square Modernism with

the cliché of a white box, but Willow Road is built of sombre brown brick. It bears witness to a Classical strain in Modernism, a desire for order and proportion. Goldfinger himself compared the house's proportions to those of the 18th century.

"The opposition to these houses is a misapprehension," he wrote in a letter to the *Evening Standard* after criticism of his decision to pull down four 18th-century cottages to make way for the terrace.

The feel is of a home, with no attempt to create a museum

Ironically, the opposition was led by Henry Brooke, who was then secretary of the Hampstead Heath and Old Hampstead Preservation Society. Yet in 1994 his son Peter, then Heritage Secretary, presented the house to the National Trust after accepting it in lieu of inheritance tax after the death of Goldfinger's widow, Ursula.

"The houses are designed as a modern adaptation of the 18th-century style and are far more in keeping with the beautiful Downshire Hills houses round the corner than their neighbours in

Willow Road," Goldfinger continued. "As for the objection that the houses are rectangular, only the Eskimos and the Zulus build anything but rectangular houses."

Nikolaus Pevsner later agreed: "Here is a contemporary style in an uncompromising form, yet by the use of brick and by sheer scale the terrace goes infinitely better with the Georgian past of Hampstead than anything Victorian."

The designs were drawn up in 1957 for a larger central house for the Goldfingers' home between two slightly smaller houses that would be sold to finance the project.

Born in Budapest at the turn of the century, Goldfinger — whose name was used by Ian Fleming for one of James Bond's most famous enemies — gained an avant-garde reputation in Paris before moving

to Britain in 1934. Goldfinger built on a heroic scale, his career gathering momentum in the 1950s. His most famous existing buildings include Trellick Tower, in north Kensington, and Balfour Tower, in Tower Hamlets. Despite subsequent criticism of high-rise blocks, residents appreciate the perfect proportions of the flats within. Trellick Tower is now a fashionable address among young artists and designers.

Alexander Fleming House, another Goldfinger Constructivist-style office complex at Elephant and Castle in south London, the former headquarters of the Department of Health and Social Security, is to be converted into 422 flats. It was announced last month.

Willow Road was home to Goldfinger till his death in 1987.

His wife remained there until she died early in 1991. It is still largely unaltered, although the Trust's restoration has included the conversion of what were once servants' quarters in the lower levels into a flat in Modernist style which is let, and one garage has made space for an audio-visual display.

The feel is entirely of the house as the home it was to the Goldfingers at the end of their lives. There is no attempt to create a museum. Goldfinger's accumulation of paintings, artefacts, books and paraphernalia are not trapped in display cases. His study is full of his books, briefs, periodicals and mundane bits of string that evoke the architect's everyday life. Sitting on one crowded shelf is the architect August Perret's hat.

Inside, the house combines practicality with restful design. It has a system of moveable partitions, set round the top fixed cantilevered spiral staircase that takes up the least possible space. There is a compact kitchen on the first floor adjacent to the dining room, with screens that retract to link the living room, studio and dining room as required. The top storey has two children's bedrooms on either side of a nanny's room, which can be opened up to make one huge nursery.

Goldfinger designed most of the house's furniture. Here are his safari chairs in the living room, there are cabinets using the new materials of Bakelite and Formica. Even the dolls' house that Goldfinger designed for his daughters is Modernist.

The interior walls are either painted brightly, emphasising the light, or are clad in waxed oak to display some of the Goldfingers' works of art. The first-floor landing is bright red gloss paint, continued on to the door of the dining room, set against the grey and terracotta of the dining-room wall. Throughout, storage and display spaces are built in: a deep window sill runs the length of the dining room and studio. A fixed wooden frame in the sitting room acts as a display for art by Goldfinger's contemporaries, Max Ernst, Henry Moore and Roland Penney.



No 2 Willow Road, inside and out: "The terrace goes infinitely better with the Georgian past of Hampstead than anything Victorian," said Nikolaus Pevsner



On millionaires' row

Rachel Kelly and Amanda Loose on rich pickings

The rich do things differently, and how they buy houses is no exception. There are almost 400 houses for sale in London, each worth more than £1 million, according to the buying agents Property Vision, with about 35 million-plus houses for sale elsewhere in Britain. (This excludes estates with agricultural land.)

Unlike most others, the very rich routinely pay cash and there are none of the usual delays caused by the need to raise a mortgage, with the subsequent need for a building society valuation, survey or a bridging loan, says Richard Crosswhite of Knight Frank's Mayfair office. "From agreeing terms to a binding exchange of contracts can take as little as two or three days."

Simon Barnes is still amazed at the £7 million sale his agents, Lassmans, carried out last year. An international businessman sent his funder to view a property in May 1995. A month later his solicitor contacted the agents, presenting terms had been agreed. "This was on a Monday, and the buyer wanted to move in the following Saturday. But we were able to persuade the vendors he was serious with a letter from his solicitor giving details of who he was. It was all done in 36 hours."

But the rich are often exceptionally choosy. This is often a second, third or even fourth home, and such buyers need to be handled with supreme care, says Mr Barnes.

"Someone will arrive by private jet, wanting to look at properties that day. They usually have a schedule which changes by the minute and could fly out of London that evening. We might not hear from them for a year," he says.

Should you be lucky enough to own a house worthy of such attraction, buyers will often pay well over the odds for something they really want, says Peter Young of John D. Wood's Kensington Office.

Jonathan Hewlett of Savills agrees: "People tend more and more to need the property now and might buy it today at next year's price if it is the right commodity."

Much of the market operates privately. "Potential buyers want confidentiality and discretion more than anything else. Some of the best houses are not marketed at all." But here are some that are.



£25 million
Aubrey House W8 (Knight Frank). Grade II* listed house with one of the largest gardens in London. Property includes listed Regency-style terrace of 3 houses, built in 1850s. Freehold.



£15 million
Brook Hall, Hertfordshire (Strutt & Parker and Knight Frank). Grade I listed mansion and 543-acre park, developed into a conference centre with golf course. 125-year lease.



£10 million
29 Chesham Place SW1 (Aylesford and Knight Frank). With more than 30 rooms, this Grade II listed Georgian house has period features, including a folly added by Lord Waterlow. Freehold.



£5 million
Sutherland House, Eaton Square SW1 (Knight Frank). This listed property includes a first-floor "Grand Salon" and a west-facing terrace. Some contents available. 74-year lease.



£5 million (offers)
100 Cheyne Walk (Aylesford and Chesterfield). Home of the designer John Stefanidis, has dropped in price by £1.25 million. Approximately 81-year lease from the National Trust.



£5 million (offers)
6 Palace Green W8 (Savills). Designed by Reed & Macdonald, this 1910 house is opposite Kensington Palace. Thirteen bedrooms, carriage driveway and staff accommodation.



£2.75 million
Shawcroft Park, near Winchester (Savills and Lane Fox). Grade II* house on the banks of the River Itchen, set in 23.95 acres. Built in 1885, 8 principal and 6 secondary bedrooms.



£4.55 million
1 Cumberland Place, Regent's Park (Knight Frank). Grade II* listed, built in 1826 under the direction of John Nash. Seven bedrooms, swimming pool, 75-year lease granted in 1980.



£4 million
West Latham Hall Estate, Norfolk (Knight Frank). Grade II listed hall with more than 1,060 acres, including lake, moat and stabling. Two farmhouses and nine cottages.



£4 million
Furness Petham Hall Estate, Hertfordshire (Knight Frank). Grade II* listed hall, including Grade II listed farmhouse and more than 735 acres. Lake and swimming pool.

What may not be a good address could prove a great investment, says Madeleine Wickham

The image may not be appealing, the glamour factor nil. But for those looking to make a high-yield rental investment, there can be opportunities at the lower end of the property market. Rather than looking at expensive swagged Knightsbridge apartments, why not consider a studio in Streatham?

"Investors are achieving excellent returns through purchasing cheap, unmodernised or downmarket property, refurbishing it at low cost and letting it over a sustained period," reports Winkworth agent Nick Harrington. "We have just sold a large unmodernised three-bedroom flat in a purpose-built block to an investor for £29,950. It will be let to three sharers for a combined figure of around £650 a month, showing a gross annual return of more than 25 per cent."

The reason for such returns is low capital value. Purpose-built flats are less popular with buyers than period conversions, so their prices are lower — but they attract the same rents and therefore give a higher yield. The downside is that purpose-built flats generally have a relatively high annual service charge. In this case, £1,200. Not only does this eat into the income stream, it will make the flat more difficult to sell. However, says Mr Harrington, investors are buying properties not to do up and sell on, but to hold on to for a while.

Ian Dickson, in Winkworth's Shepherd's Bush office, also reports interest in downmarket properties. He has just sold a pair of "scruffy" flats above a shop to an investor for £145,000. They need £20,000 worth of work, and then should achieve a

Go downmarket for many happy returns

yield of 15 per cent gross. "Investors tend to be private individuals with a little bit of capital," he says. "Most are men in their forties and fifties who want to augment their pension fund."

Outside London, the capital stakes are even lower. In areas of Liverpool, terraced houses can be snapped up for prices as low as £15,000-£20,000. The basic market rent, according to Stan Beilin, of property group TRB Estates, is £65 a week — a gross yield of at least 17 per cent. As Michael Newey, head of residential investment at Savills, puts it: "You could take out a mortgage for 70 per cent of the price, and in theory put the rest on a credit card, and just about make a profit without putting down a penny of capital."

The snag is that whereas in London you might hope for — or even specify — professional tenants in Liverpool they are more likely to be students or DSS claimants — both traditionally seen as problems by landlords. However, according to Mr Newey, neither category should be ruled out.

"People on housing benefit are perceived as troublesome tenants, who will damage the property," he says. "But largely that doesn't happen. And in many cases the housing benefit will be paid straight to the landlord by direct debit, which actually enhances the security of the investment."

"I like students. Of course, they may not have learnt to look after themselves very well; housework may not happen; you will have to build into your financial equation an annual repair bill. But student rents generally fall between £35 and £55, wherever they are. So you can invest in a property with a very low capital cost and still achieve £35 per student."

The danger with buying a house and filling it with students is that you might find it defined by the local authority as a "house in multiple occupation", falling under a series of stringent safety regulations. The official definition of a HMO is "the house which is occupied by persons who do not form a single household". Whether your investment counts as one may depend on anything from the stance of the local authority to whether your tenants share a cereal packet. According to Margaret Evans, of the House in Multiple Occupation Action Group, the new Housing Bill contains provisions that will make HMOs economically unfeasible, and force smaller landlords out of the market.

"If you're not willing to take risks, you won't get the income"

Geoff Cutting, of the Small Landlords' Association, highlights other potential pitfalls: "Holding benefit can cause trouble. If your tenants' payments are made directly to you and it then transpires that the claim was fraudulent you might have to pay back hundreds or thousands of pounds, even if you had no idea that your tenant wasn't eligible."

So, for anyone thinking of making an investment, do some thorough investigation first. "Look at capital values and rental values, and study the socio-economic profile of the area," advises Mr Newey. "Ask questions such as: what's the local unemployment rate like? Is there a university near

by? And once you've decided to invest, you must find a good local property manager. Make sure they are professionally qualified, then check their track record. An above average manager should have voids and arrears of less than 10 per cent."

And be aware that, however many precautions you take, an investment in property will always have an element of risk. "If you're not willing to take risks, you won't get the income," says Mr Newey. "But some risks are perceived. For instance, there's a perceived risk to Merseyside which is based on emotion."

Mr Beilin agrees: "We run a joint venture operation which gives a return of between 15 and 20 per cent. But investors won't put money into Liverpool. They see armed police and boarded-up buildings, and the sight of it depresses them. But if you can find a niche market, there are huge rewards to be made."

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Melanie Meigh and her new investment in Streatham

and coming area. You can buy properties at low prices, but they don't have to be dumps. This property was a particularly good buy.

"It's a very pretty flat, with a share of the freehold, in a brilliant location for transport. I knew that would make it attractive to tenants. But I was also looking for something that would have good resale value — if the market goes up in the next few years, I might well decide to sell."

Now she is on the hunt for more opportunities. And, she says, she's not alone: "I know of several others who are doing exactly the same thing. If you've got the money, why have it sitting in a building society when you could be getting nice high returns?"

NEWS

Vicar is killed outside his church

A young vicar regarded as a potential leader of the Church of England was stabbed to death outside his church in Anfield, Liverpool, yesterday after giving advice to a man with a history of violence.

The Rev Christopher Gray, 32, was left lying in a pool of blood by his assailant, who then tried to abduct a young mother from her home, before fleeing in her car. Page 1

Four escape as executive jet crashes

Four people escaped death when an executive jet overshot a runway as it landed at RAF Northolt and crashed into a van on a dual carriageway. The plane's passenger, Lisa Hogan, an Irish actress friend of John Cleese, escaped with shock and an injured ankle after the Learjet tore through the airfield fence and hit the van on the A40. Page 1

Gun ban 'inevitable'

A ban on the private possession of handguns in Britain appeared inevitable after the Government hinted that it would overrule Tory MPs who have opposed prohibition and Labour promised laws to prevent people having firearms in their homes. Pages 1, 2

Graduate murdered

A young woman who was celebrating her graduation from university was murdered and her body set alight. Page 3

Staying in Morocco

Two British teenagers sentenced to five years in a Moroccan jail for drug trafficking are unlikely to be allowed home to serve their sentences. Page 3

Health hurdle

Heavy-drinking women, schoolchildren who smoke and the overweight of both sexes are ruining Stephen Dorrell's drive to create a healthy nation. Page 4

Portillo dispute

Michael Portillo was caught in an embarrassing dispute as his constituents urged him to block plans to turn his local Conservative association offices into a McDonald's restaurant. Page 5

Alcohol warning

The parents of a schoolgirl who died after a secret drinking session at a holiday camp party warned other young people of the dangers of alcohol. Page 6

Chaining a guard at Buckingham Palace

A parking warden has made an official complaint against the police after he was arrested and handcuffed while trying to put a ticket on a van outside Buckingham Palace. The warden defied a policeman who told him to ignore the vehicle while it made a delivery at the Palace goods entrance. The policeman took him to the police office at the Palace. Page 6

Nuclear disclosure

There have been about 20 incidents involving British nuclear weapons since 1960, the Ministry of Defence said. Page 6

Uneasy truth

The Chechen truce declared by General Aleksandr Lebed, the Russian security chief, had an uneasy birth as sporadic fighting continued in Grozny. Page 7

French cash demand

The state body co-ordinating the sale of assets from Credit Lyonnais, the troubled French bank, has asked the Government for more cash to supplement a rescue package that is already one of the most expensive in the country's history. Page 8

Challenge to EU

Eleven Danes will mount a fresh court challenge to test the validity of the country's membership of the European Union. Page 8

Powell boosts Dole

Bob Dole rejoiced after his Republican Party, responding to an inspirational speech by General Colin Powell, took a giant step towards shedding its extremist image on the opening night of its convention. Page 9

Adulation for Castro

Fidel Castro, the Cuban leader, quietly celebrated his 70th birthday at home. Quite where that is few know, as he has a number of residences. Page 9



PC Cliff Edens, who has left East London to become village constable in Helmsley, North Yorkshire. The village provided the location for *Heartbeat*, the TV series, and the Edens live in the former home of Peter Walker, who created the character PC Nick Rowan

BUSINESS

Electricity: The National Grid was told to make price cuts which would knock £5 off the average annual household bill for four years. Page 23

Pay: Sir Stanley Kalms, the chairman of Dixons, the electrical retailer, received a pay package of £365,000 last year, an increase of 29 per cent. Page 23

House prices: Halifax Building Society launched a scheme to remove the risk of negative equity for first-time housebuyers. Page 23

Markets: The FT-SE 100 index rose 20.1 points to close at 3823.4. Sterling's trade-weighted index remained unchanged at 84.6 after a slip from \$1.5518 to \$1.5508 but a slight rise from DM2.2897 to DM2.2898. Page 26

SPORT

Cricket: Despite a century from Alec Stewart, Surrey were beaten by four wickets by Essex in the NatWest Trophy semi-final. Essex will play Lancashire in the final. Page 44

Football: Wimbledon's match against Manchester United on Saturday celebrates ten years in the top flight of English football for an unglamorous club of limited resources. Page 40

Rugby: Peter Savill, a leading owner, blamed the lack of strong leadership for divisions within the sport. Page 39

Rugby League: Martin Offiah, the former Wigan wing, has been left out of the Great Britain party to tour Papua New Guinea, Fiji and New Zealand. Page 41

ARTS

Stepping in: Mikhail Baryshnikov, the former Kirov Ballet star, will show his modern dance troupe at the Coliseum. Page 30

Street wise: The stand-up comedian Tony Burgess brings first-hand experience to *Comfortable Shoes*, his new Edinburgh Fringe play about the young homeless of Manchester. Page 31

Hamlet doomed? A disappointed Benedict Nightingale reports on the cancellation of the Edinburgh Festival's opening production: Robert Lepage's *Elisire*, an adaptation of *Hamlet*. Page 31

Midnight: Although enjoyable, Frederick Knott's revival of *Dial M For Murder* lacks the construction and speed expected of a modern-day thriller. Page 32

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

FILMS
Geoff Brown sees Jack Nicholson take on an action role in *The Crossing Guard*

BOOKS
Jeanette Winterson on Joan of Arc, Jonathan Mirsky on China and the Hong Kong factor

FEATURES

Compassion not condemnation: Once unmasked, drug or alcohol addicts become the dregs of society. But it is the responsibility of all of us to help them, says Rachel Campbell-Johnston. Page 11

STYLE
State-of-the-art fatherhood: The ultimate male fashion accessory is a man's baby. He can display his softer side and show evidence of his virility. Page 10

MEDIA
What turns young men on? Advertisers are showing considerable confusion over how to sell in the lads these days. Pages 16, 17
It's good to talk: Britain has only two commercial speech-based radio stations, but then talk radio means democracy, which could mean trouble. Pages 16, 17

HOMES

Modern art: The National Trust has opened a 1930s house designed by Erno Goldfinger. Page 19

THE PAPERS

That a new Turkish Prime Minister should choose Iran for his first official visit abroad should surprise no one, given that Ankara shares with its neighbour powerful interests and problems... Alliances are shifting in the Middle East and Turkey is looking for a role to play. — *El País*

TV LISTINGS

Preview: Lord Snowdon's 1968 documentary on old age, *Don't Count the Daisies* (BBC2, 11.15pm), is as perceptive as anything produced since. **Review:** Lynne Truss on a brave film about a man grieving for his murdered wife. Page 43

OPINION

Off target

Lord Cullen's report on gun ownership may make a good case for minimal change. It could hardly make a worse one than that of the select committee. Page 15

Box in the manger

Since 1985, when BT decided to remove the red telephone boxes from the streets of Britain, this pointless destruction of one of the nation's modest architectural treasures has stood as a small but potent symbol of the abuse of monopoly power. Page 13

Candles of Cuba

Cuban papers claimed that millions of friends around the world were celebrating Señor Castro's birthday as their own. Most of the candles have already been blown out by the 70-old dictator himself. Page 13

COLUMNS

DAVID SELBOURNE

Politicians may talk till they drop of lower taxes; of a retreat from, or a closer union with, "Europe"; of the need for a Bill of Rights or reform of the House of Lords; but it is a general unease about our civic condition which, I feel sure, stands first in public concerns. Page 12

QUENTIN LETTS

They could just have had the register office supervisor ask the bride: "Well, Beryl. Do you want him?" Bride: "Yeah, all right." Supervisor: "Frank? How about you, mate?" Frank: "Whatever you say, pal." It would not have been much worse. Page 12

LESLEY CHAMBERLAIN

What makes *Lolita* a great love story is her innocence. Page 3

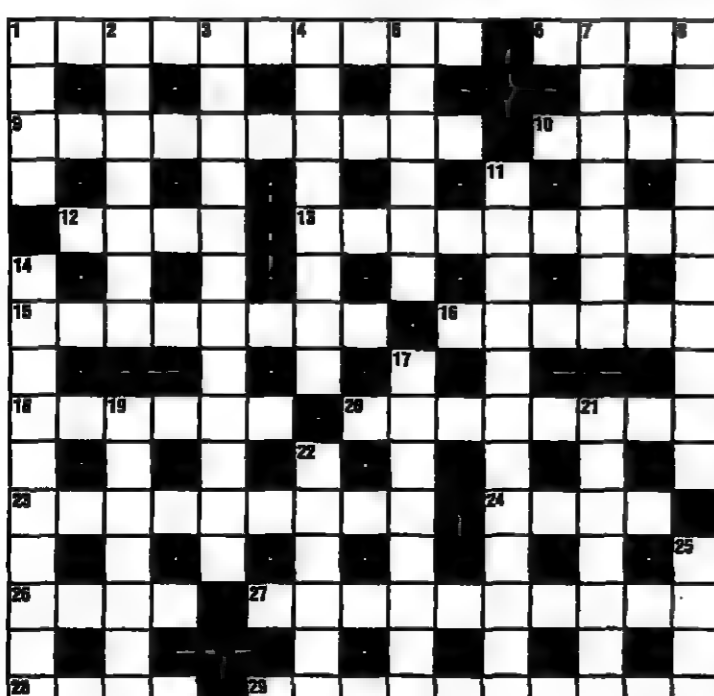
OBITUARIES

Sir Anthony Parsons, diplomat, Marshal Antonio de Spínola, President of Portugal. Page 15

LETTERS

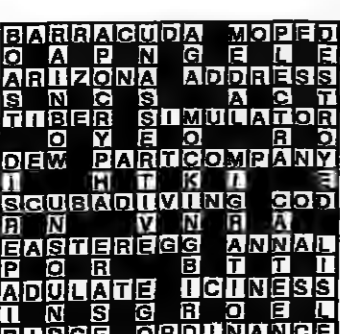
"Beat-a-cheat": Roman Britain; Lord Woolf's reforms; Clare Short on taxes; *Britannia*; Olympics. Page 13

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,246



- ACROSS**
- High-level plot (4-6).
 - Celebrated dynasty (4).
 - Woody jumper counters? (10).
 - Predatory gull and diving-birds coming back (4).
 - Mechanical devices for holding villains (4).
 - A number of Venetians in a boat (9).
 - Works to help writers on appropriate terms (8).
 - Piano is adapted to make a smaller keyboard instrument (6).
 - Getting on a bit, hold is slipping (6).
 - Main commercial areas of Bangor, for example (8).
 - Atoms as power objects? (9).
 - Little corporal punishment here (4).
- DOWN**
- Record taken by Olympic finalists of heroic proportions (4).
 - He, female impersonator, is a criminal (10).
 - Bite lip (4).
 - Buns, rolls and puffs, cooked this early by son? (10).
 - Game at home for Waterloo? (4).
 - Herons love moving towards the land (7).
 - Potter's craft displayed, often, on courses (12).
 - Woodpecker one may hear before the fall (4-4).
 - Partner to lead? (6).
 - Hidden piece of junk, now named (7).
 - Monument of most solemn individual (10).
 - Boring social worker? (9-3).
 - Vibes at near-maximum? Quiet at this point (10).
 - Commit perjury or far worse, potentially (8).
 - Name foremost of lasses in courage (7).
 - Gold piece, a pound, that is going around the city (7).
 - A beret the French lifted, to reveal creature with shaggy hair (6).
 - Mostly dull discourse of paid performers (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,245



Times Two Crossword, page 48

THE TIMES WEATHER

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0800 5000 followed by the appropriate code.

Region	Forecast
Greater London	701
Kent, Surrey, Sussex	702
Doncaster & NW	703
Derby & Cornwall	704
Wilt, Glouce, Avon, Dorset	705
Berks, Bucks, Oxon	706
Beds, Herts & Essex	707
North, Suffolk, Cambs	708
West Mid & Sh. Glam & Gwent	709
Stroud, Havild & Wex	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincoln & Humbers	713
Derby & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Cymru	715
N W England	716
W S & Yorks & Cheshire	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
N Central Scotland	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
N W Scotland	725
Orkney, Shetland & Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

Weathercast is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times.

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic/roadwork information, 24 hours a day, dial 0300 401 followed by the appropriate code.

Location & SE traffic	Forecast
Area within M25	731
East Kent/Stroud/Buckingham/Down	732
Kent/Surrey/Stroud/Hants	733
M25 London Orbital only	734
National traffic and roadworks	735
West Country	736
Wales	737
Midlands	738
East Anglia	739
North & East of England	740
North Scotland	741
North Ireland	742
Channel Islands	743
N Ireland	744

AA Roadwatch is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday's highest day temp: Bournemouth, Dorset, 26C (79F); lowest day temp: Bala Sound, Shetland, 14C (57F); highest rainfall: Hastings, East Sussex, 0.5in; highest sunshine: Isle of Man, 13.5hr.

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING

Recycled paper made up 34.5% of the new material for UK newspapers in 1995.

FORECAST

General: England and Wales will be generally dry with sunny intervals. Eastern counties, however, will be cloudy with patchy rain or drizzle at first, especially over East Anglia and Kent.

Scotland and Northern Ireland will be mainly dry with sunny intervals, although patchy mist and drizzle will affect eastern Scotland and the Northern Isles for a while. Later in the day cloud may increase across western Scotland, and perhaps Northern Ireland.

London, Central S England, E Midlands, W Midlands, Central N: becoming brighter with sunny spells after a grey start in places. Wind northerly, light or moderate. Max temp 23C (73F).

SE England, E Anglia, E England, NE England: mostly cloudy, but drizzle dying out with a few sunny intervals developing. Wind mainly northerly, moderate. Max temp 20C (68F).

Channel Isles, SW England, S Wales, N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, S Scotland, Glasgow, early mist, then dry with sunny spells. Wind variable or northerly, light. Max temp 23C (73F) but cooler near coasts.

Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland: dull at first, sunny spells developing. Wind northerly, becoming light and variable. Max temp 20C (68F).

Argyll, NW Scotland, N Ireland: sunny spells but cloud perhaps increasing later. Wind variable, becoming southerly, light. Max temp 20C (68F), but cooler on coasts.

Orkney, Shetland: cloudy, misty at first, sunny intervals developing. Wind variable, light. Max temp 17C (63F).

Outlook: sunny and fairly warm but patchy rain spreading slowly southeast.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

24 hrs to 6 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; de=dust storm; du=dust; f=fog; g=gale; h=hail; i=ice; m=moderate; n=none; o=overcast; r=rain; s=sunny; t=thunder; w=wind; x=other.

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Rain	Max	Min
London	11.5	20	88	a	16	7
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London	11.5	20	88	a	16	7
London	11.5	20	88	a	16	7
London	11.5	20	88	a	16	7

ABROAD

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Rain	Max	Min
Algeria	27	81	1	0	30	18
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Outlook: sunny and fairly warm but patchy rain spreading slowly southeast.

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THE TIMES

2

INSIDE
SECTION2
TODAY

ARTS

Baryshnikov:
dance master with
a modern muse
PAGES 30-32



OUTSOURCING

Should you let
another company
run your IT?
PAGES 34, 35



SPORT

Wimbledon remain
the Crazy Gang
after ten years
PAGES 39-44



BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 14 1996

Halifax offers guarantee against negative equity

By ROBERT MILLER

BRITAIN'S biggest mortgage lender today launches an initiative which will guarantee that first-time buyers will not fall into the negative equity trap. The move from the Halifax Building Society is intended to restore confidence among young buyers.

Optimism at the recent trend of steadily rising house prices has been tempered by concerns that interest rates, which are at their lowest for more than 30 years, could well increase by the end of the year and hit property prices.

This could reverse the gradual fall in the number of homes caught in the negative equity trap, with loans larger than the value of the property, from its height of more than one million just over a year ago.

First-time buyers have always been regarded as a vital engine to any sustainable recovery in the housing market. They increase the number of pure housing transactions as opposed to straightforward re-mortgaging deals that so many homeowners have opted for in recent years.

Under the terms of the new deal, if a first-time Halifax borrower decides to move

between five and ten years after buying and is in negative equity, the Halifax will sell the property on behalf of its customer and fully repay the home loan. The society, which plans to become a bank next year, added: "The customer will not have to repay any shortfall or carry this over to a new mortgage."

Other features include a £1,000 cashback and loans, on the current standard variable rate of 6.99 per cent, are available up to 95 per cent including a free valuation.

Cover for the Halifax First Time Buyer Guarantee will be provided by a special

offshore company, Halifax Guarantee Insurance.

Mike Blackburn, chief executive of the Halifax, said: "This innovative scheme will provide peace of mind and security for prospective home buyers climbing the first step on the home buying ladder."

Initial reactions from rivals in the cut-throat mortgage market were mixed. John Wignall, a director of the Bradford & Bingley, said: "We will obviously study the scheme closely. But it does seem to be a case of shutting the stable door after the horse has bolted. With rising house prices it

makes the scheme cheaper to insure and it does not help those existing borrowers who are caught in the negative equity trap."

David Holmes, a spokesman for the Yorkshire Building Society, said: "Someone has to pay for the scheme at the end of the day so the price is factored into the package somewhere."

Margaret Schwarz, chief economist at the Abbey National, said: "The Halifax move appears to be an interesting way of re-packaging cashback and discounted loans."

Pennington, page 25

Regulator condemns pay levels at Grid

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE National Grid was criticised by its regulator yesterday for excessive pay. His objections were part of a pricing review, which should cut electricity bills by up to £1.2 billion over four years.

It was harsher than the City expected and would cut electricity bills by an average of £5 a year, more than consumer groups had expected.

The criticism comes weeks after protests about NGC's long-term incentive plan, which could deliver pay and perks packages worth several million pounds to its directors.

Last year executives refused to forgo big dividend benefits when the business was floated.

The share price, which was floated at £2 at the end of last year, fell back 94p, to 165p, on the planned price cuts.

NGC, which transmits power across the country, reacted strongly to the pricing proposals from Professor Stephen Littlechild, the electricity regulator, which will reduce its prices overall by inflation minus 10 per cent each year for a four-year period.

David Jones, chief executive, said the proposals were "ill-founded and unprecedentedly harsh".

The two sides will now engage in a two-month consultation period to argue about what can be afforded, but Professor Littlechild has highlighted remuneration levels and staffing as two areas that could deliver cost savings in line with his expectations. He said that consultants on the pricing review had identified remuneration as higher than the electricity industry

average. The efficiency review in his pricing proposals earmarked "shareholder servicing, bonus schemes and corporate affairs" as offering opportunities for cost saving.

Roger Urwin, managing director of the transmission business, said Professor Littlechild's comments that remuneration topped the industry average was "an absolutely extraordinary statement".

He said that the initial proposals for the review, which will impose a one-off charge on the company next year of between 20 and 26 per cent and thereafter RPI-X, were punishing the company for past efficiencies. "We've made considerable improvements and with the latest job losses our staffing will have fallen to below half its level when the grid became a separate business."

Professor Littlechild said his expectations of a reduction in operating costs — of between 4 and 6 per cent — were based on what the company had achieved so far. He also said that the company was "wildly out" in its capital expenditure estimates submitted for the last review.

Mr Urwin said further job losses must be a prospect if the review becomes reality, "since jobs are a significant element of operating costs". Mr Jones is to write to Professor Littlechild and the two sides will meet again but the company is unlikely to press for a Monopolies and Mergers Commission referral.

The pricing review, which involved some liaison between Professor Littlechild's staff and their counterparts at the gas watchdog, was tougher than even independently commissioned consumer research had anticipated.

Ken Prior, deputy chairman of the chairman's group of electricity consumers committees, said his organisation had ordered research because they felt Professor Littlechild had been far too lenient in his pricing review three years ago. "We made our own calculation, which would have required an overall rate of RPI-X, so this is much better."

Pennington, page 25



Professor Stephen Littlechild: National Grid pricing proposals yesterday seen as harsh

Strong year persuades Kalms to take 29% rise

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

SIR Stanley Kalms, chairman of Dixons, the electrical retailer, received a pay package worth £865,000 last year, an increase of 29 per cent on the previous twelve months.

A performance bonus of £236,000 and taxable benefits of £21,000 were added to his basic salary of £608,000. The company said that in the previous 12 months he was due to receive £769,000 but had waived £100,000 of his performance-related pay as he thought it would be unfair to

take it in a recession. The company's 35 per cent jump in pre-tax profits to £135.2 million for the year ended April 27 clearly persuaded him that such sacrifices were not needed this time around.

Sales in the first ten weeks of the current financial year were up 12 per cent, like-for-like, and up 11 per cent in 1995-96. The company delighted investors by paying a higher than expected dividend of 8.75p per share.

Sir Stanley, 64, was

knighted this year and says he still works a 70 to 80-hour week although John Clare, Dixons chief executive, is now responsible for much of the day-to-day running of the group.

Mr Clare received a pay package worth £438,000 last year, according to the annual report, a 9 per cent rise on 1994-95.

Dixons, a long-standing contributor to the Conservative Party, last year donated £25,000 to its coffers.

Sears puts in claim of £30m from Facia

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

UNSECURED creditors of Facia, the privately owned retailing empire built up by Stephen Hinchliffe and now in receivership, are claiming up to £70 million but can expect to get only 10p in the pound when the liquidation process gets under way next month.

Sears, the retail group, says the Facia holding company was a guarantee of a complex shoe deal with the group shortly before its collapse and has put in a claim for around £30 million.

If paid, this sum may be reduced to 10p in the pound, says a creditor, of the first 16 weeks of 1996. The companies put into receivership were Facia, Sock Shop, Red or Dead, Torq, Oakland, Salisburys and Contessa.

Most have been sold, while Torq has been shut down.

Mr Thompson said he is in touch with the Serious Fraud Office and South Yorkshire Police about their investigation into the running of Facia prior to receivership and is assisting them. He is also preparing a report on the conduct of the directors which will go to the DTI.

In a separate case, the DTI is already attempting to get Mr Hinchliffe struck off as a company director.

Liquidation is likely to be mid or late September and is dependent on the sale of some remaining properties.

The receivers have employed an agency to help to track down some of the Facia fleet of cars, which was up to 70 strong and is believed to include many classic cars from the personal collection built up by Mr Hinchliffe. The cars the receivers have been able to find have been sold.

Mr Thompson said no audited accounts had been received from Facia's directors, but draft accounts show that the group lost £9 million in the first 16 weeks of 1996. The companies put into receivership were Facia, Sock Shop, Red or Dead, Torq, Oakland, Salisburys and Contessa.

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Set fair

General Accident, the insurance company, rode out bad weather claims from America to post half-year operating profits of £194 million, a fall of £63 million on the same period last year but a figure better than the City was expecting. Page 24, *Tempus* 26

Implosion

Shares in BOC fell 43p yesterday as the industrial gases company revealed a collapse in orders at Edwards, its vacuum pumps business, caused by the semiconductor industry. Page 25, *Tempus* 26

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Buxted Chicken spreads its water wings

By PAUL DURMAN

BUKTED CHICKEN, a food processing company that supplies Marks & Spencer, was yesterday the subject of a landmark decision that will bring the first real competition to the water industry.

Buxted is set to become the first water user to be allowed to change supplier. Its factory at Flixton in Suffolk intends to switch from Essex and Suffolk Water, a small private firm, to the neighbouring Anglian Water, one of the large privatised utilities. The change will cut the

factory's water bill by about 25 per cent, or £44,000 a year. Ofwat, the water regulator, expects to give the final go-ahead after a 28-day consultation period.

The difficulty of transporting water has previously made competition in the industry virtually non-existent. The water companies have therefore enjoyed regional monopolies.

Alan Booker, Ofwat's deputy director, said it was good news that Buxted would be able to take advantage of Anglian's lower charges. He urged the industry to take further steps "towards achieving a better deal for customers

through real and effective competition".

Frank Dobson MP, Labour's Shadow Environment Secretary, gave warning that the advent of competition should not be allowed to harm the interest of domestic and other small water users. He said: "The regulator must make sure that a water company gaining a large water user does not offer them special treatment at the expense of other customers."

Anglian will have to lay a 6km pipe to connect the Buxted site to its pipe network. A spokesman said it would take about five years for Anglian to

start earning a return on its investment. He said the move would allow it to learn more about the implications of increasing competition.

Buxted, part of Hillsdown Holdings, already uses Anglian for sewerage services at the Flixton site. It should receive its first Anglian water next spring. A number of its other sites are within the Anglian region.

Ofwat is currently considering 12 more applications from large water users that wish to change their suppliers. To be able to consider a switch, a firm has to use at least 55 million gallons (250 megalitres) a year.

BBC joint venture strengthens Flextech shares

By ERIC REGULY

THE BBC's push into the commercial arena is gaining momentum. Yesterday, Flextech, the TV programmer whose cable and satellite channels include UK Gold, Bravo and Playboy TV, confirmed that it was in talks to form a joint venture with the BBC to launch up to six new channels for the paying public.

No details were disclosed but it appears that the channels will be devoted to what the BBC does best — documentaries, drama, comedy and news. Flextech will provide the capital required to start the channels, the BBC will provide the content and the two will share the

profits. The deal sent Flextech shares soaring to 501p, up 27p or almost 6 per cent.

A joint venture with Flextech is expected to be the first of many such deals as the BBC attempts to supplement its licence fees with commercial income. The next logical move would be to clone the Flextech joint venture in America, where broadcasters have to scour the world to find enough content to fill hundreds of channels.

Flextech could help the BBC to establish its American beachhead. The company is 50 per cent owned by Tele-Communications Inc of Denver, the world's largest cable company and

one of the largest programme distributors. The speculation is that TCI and the BBC will open negotiations soon to form a joint venture. British classics such as *Fawlty Towers* and *Jewel in the Crown* could become part of US viewing. Kevin Narain, a media consultant at Price Waterhouse, said: "The old classic comedies and the costume dramas tend to go down well in the States. BBC news would also sell well. It is recognised around the world for its high standards."

Indeed, the BBC has said it wants to start a 24-hour news channel and Flextech and TCI seem logical places to start. Expanding the

BBC's commercial interests is the charge of Bob Phillips, who is deputy director-general and chief executive of BBC Worldwide, the two-year-old commercial arm. Income from BBC Worldwide is becoming crucial because the annual licence fee — now £99.50 — is under pressure and the BBC faces enormous costs to buy sports rights and convert its broadcasting system from analogue to digital.

Mr Phillips has become a roving salesman for BBC products. The BBC will never become a wholly commercial service, but going halfway will give it a better chance of survival in the global marketplace.

GA results improve on most City forecasts

By ROBERT MILLER

GENERAL ACCIDENT, the insurance company, rode out bad-weather claims from the United States to post half-year operating profits of £194 million, a fall of £63 million on the same period last year.

In spite of the fall GA's half-year results to June 30 were ahead of the top range of City forecasts, helped by healthy underwriting profits from the UK and Canada. The half-year dividend rose by 6.5 per cent, to 11.4p a share, payable on or after next January 1.

Bob Scott, group chief executive, said that the acquisition in January of Provident Mutual, a rival insurer, "is progressing ahead of plan and reorganisation costs are already making a contribution to profits".

He added: "After the first-quarter setback due to adverse weather, the strong recovery in our performance during the second quarter, which produced an operating profit before tax of £138 million, has

been driven by an encouraging all-round performance."

Mr Scott went on: "In the UK we continue to manage our business successfully in a trading environment that has become increasingly competitive. An excellent underwriting profit of £24 million was achieved in the second three months of the year and both our personal and commercial business units traded profitably during the quarter."

US weather losses in both the first and second-quarter trading periods more than offset improvements in GA's underlying performance in America.

Mr Scott said that business in the Asia-Pacific region was very satisfactory, "with excellent results from New Zealand and Asia", and the £5 million half-time deficit was unchanged from last year.

GA trimmed losses from its estate agency operation by £1 million, to £7 million, following a £3 million deficit in the second quarter.

On personal lines business, GA's motor account produced a £1 million profit in the second quarter to reduce the half-year deficit to £8 million, compared with a £5 million profit this time last year, on a 3 per cent increase in written premiums.

The insurer's Homeowners account recovered from early bad-weather claims to produce a profit of £14 million, well down on last year's £30 million gain. Subsidised claims doubled to £8 million in the first six months of the year.

GA also announced yesterday that Philip Twyman, who has spent his working life with the Australian Mutual Provident Society, will join the Scottish insurer in September as a group executive director. As a main board director Mr Twyman will have overall responsibility for finance and the development of GA's worldwide life operations.

The market appeared more than happy with GA's half-year results and marked the shares up 14p, to 678p.

Times, page 26



Bob Scott, GA chief executive, praised the "encouraging all-round performance"

German deficit raises single currency doubts

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE German budget deficit will exceed forecasts this year, the Bundesbank predicted last night in its August monthly report.

The deficit is currently planned to be DM60 billion but will overshoot this because of a shortfall on tax revenues. The German central bank said that it was not possible at this stage to quantify the shortfall.

The forecast raises further doubts about Germany's ability to meet the deficit criteria laid out in the Maastricht treaty to join a European single currency. In its June report, the

Bundesbank said the deficit could reach 4 per cent of gross national product — the Maastricht limit is 3 per cent — and public debt would overreach the 60 per cent of GNP limit.

For the first seven months of 1996, the federal budget was DM44.63 billion in deficit, against DM16.66 billion for the same period in 1995. Between January and July, spending rose 14.4 per cent while revenue increased only 5.4 per cent.

The Bundesbank said in the report that it would continue to monitor M3 money supply

to see whether it and other monetary policy conditions would allow room for lower money market rates. The markets are likely to be pleased, at least, that the Bundesbank has not categorically ruled out a rate cut in coming months.

The French franc, which has been under pressure since late last week because of speculation that monetary union may be delayed and fears that Germany will not cut rates further, slid against the mark again yesterday. It traded at 3.4275 to the mark, compared with 3.4263 late on Monday.

TUC study shows job insecurity is on the increase

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

JOB insecurity is on the increase and temporary workers are finding it tougher to find permanent employment, according to two studies published today.

Nearly three in ten employees have no protection from unfair dismissal, compared with less than one in ten in the 1970s, while only half of employees are employed in workplaces which have union recognition, according to a study by the Trades Union Congress.

Meanwhile, David Blunkett, Shadow Education and Employment Secretary, said that there has been a 50 per cent rise in the numbers of temporary workers who have been unable to find a permanent job since the last general election.

Mr Blunkett said that figures from the Labour Force Survey show a 57 per cent increase in temporary workers unable to convert to permanent staff in England, a 42 per cent rise in Wales, a 26 per cent increase in Scotland and a 25 per cent increase in Northern Ireland. The biggest increase regionally was East Anglia, which had seen an 87 per cent increase in temporary workers unable to find permanent jobs.

The growth in temporary workers was bolstered by the TUC findings, which determined that less than one in ten of new jobs created over the past three years has been permanent full-time work.

The TUC also found that the "social contract" between employer and employee was breaking down, with only one in four staff trusting their company to keep its promises.

The trade union group said that the various forms of labour market deregulation and growth in temporary work exacerbated feelings of insecurity. John Monks, TUC General Secretary, said: "Insecurity is now deeply embedded within the workplace, not just the wider labour market."

"Without convincing plans to tackle these problems, simply expanding the economy will not restore confidence in jobs."

Women's work, page 27

Launders transfers loyalties to Leeds

Leeds United has scored a rare victory over Manchester United, the rival Premier League football club, by poaching Robin Launders as its next chief executive. Mr Launders was finance director of Manchester for five years and is credited with helping to redevelop Old Trafford and ensure the club's commercial success.

The arrival of Mr Launders follows the takeover of Leeds by Caspian Group for £16.5 million this year. Before joining Manchester United, Mr Launders worked for Grand Metropolitan and Reg Vardy, the car dealer.

The news had been expected and shares in Manchester United closed unchanged at 454p. Caspian fell 1p to 26p, 7.5p above the price at which the shares began trading again on August 3 after suspension.

Kane quits

Shares in Business Post, the parcel delivery group, plunged 16p to 439p yesterday on news that Michael Kane, its co-founder and chief executive, had resigned. The company said that Mr Kane, who took over as chief executive in October, is to move to Jersey and has not made any career plans known. Mr Kane, 47, set up the company three years ago with his brother, Peter. In January, Peter resigned as chairman, moving to France with a 60 per cent stake in the group, worth £132 million. Michael takes with him a 14 per cent stake, now worth £30.7 million.

Debt rerate

Moody's, the international rating agency, has downgraded about £1 billion of debt held by Guinness, the drinks company, reflecting difficult trading conditions in international markets. Moody's has cut the ratings on the senior unsecured debt of Guinness and its subsidiaries to Aa3 from Aa2, and the rating on its subordinated debt to A1 from Aa3. Moody's said about \$1.65 billion of debt was affected.

Abbey National buys car financing firm

By ROBERT MILLER

ABBEY National is continuing its drive to diversify into areas outside the traditional savings and home loans market with the acquisition of Elton Holdings, the contract car financing company, for £9.9 million.

The deal, done through First National Bank, Abbey National's consumer finance arm, complements the purchase last month of Wagon Finance Group, one of the UK's largest

car finance firms. Abbey, which now derives 42.5 per cent of its profits from non-traditional activities, said last week that the Wagon acquisition will add about £350 million of unsecured loan assets.

Elton, which has about 1 per cent of the contract car financing market, made consolidated pre-tax profits of £1.3 million last year. Its name will be changed to First National Vehicle Contracts.

Alliance merges with Latex

By CARL MORTISHED

ALLIANCE RESOURCES, the oil and gas penny share stock, is merging with Latex Resources, another US oil producer, and at the same time settling a legal dispute with a former chief executive.

Alliance said yesterday that it had agreed a stay of proceedings against John O'Brien but was retracting none of the statement of claims against the former director, who left the Alliance board last year after accusations of fraud.

The company would not

reveal the terms of the settlement but indicated that Mr O'Brien admitted to no wrongdoing.

Patrick Maley, Alliance's chairman, said: "The board believes this settlement is in the best interests of Alliance shareholders."

Alliance is thought to have agreed to the lifting of a Mareva injunction over Mr O'Brien's assets in return for a financial settlement.

Deals in Alliance shares were suspended at 2p yesterday

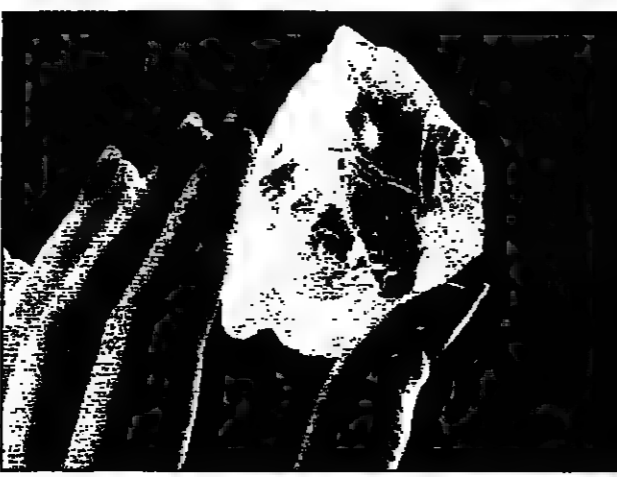
before the company announced a merger with Latex, which will give Latex investors 72 per cent of the combined group.

Latex produces about 1,200 barrels of oil per day and 10 million cubic feet of gas in the southern United States. It has estimated reserves of 6.3 million barrels of oil.

Alliance said that the increased asset base would enable the company to acquire and exploit assets in the former Soviet Union.

Sparkling \$482m half-year from De Beers

By JON ASHWORTH



De Beers' Centenary Diamond, one of the largest found

DE BEERS, the South African diamond giant, shrugged off "leakage" of gems from Russia and the impact of a sliding rand to unveil a healthy rise in first half profits. The group lifted attributable earnings by 18 per cent to \$482 million (\$407 million) in the six months to end-June. The dividend increased by 5.5 per cent to 27 US cents per linked unit (25.6 US cents).

The Central Selling Organisation (CSO), De Beers' marketing arm, achieved record sales of \$2.748 billion during the period. The CSO recently put up the price of diamonds by an average of 3 per cent, with increases of 7 per cent for gems above one carat, where demand has been strongest.

De Beers admitted that it has yet to finalise a trade agreement with Almayra

Rossi Sakha, Russia's biggest diamond producer, more than five months after signing a memorandum of understanding aimed at controlling the supply of Russian gems. De Beers blamed the delay on the Russian presidential elections, and said an existing sales contract had been extended while talks continued. It said "leakage" was nowhere near the levels seen in 1995, when an estimated \$1 billion in Russian diamonds evaded the CSO.

Julian Ogilvie Thompson, chairman of De Beers, expressed his disappointment over the withdrawal of the Argyle mine in north-western Australia, which pulled out of the CSO in June. Argyle accounted for 6 per cent of the CSO's rough diamond sales, and the impact is already being felt at the cheaper end of the market.

Argyle's withdrawal has had an unsettling impact on the diamond cutting industry in India, which has copious stocks of rough and polished diamonds, and was caught unawares by the move. The CSO said it would work with its clients, including India, to help minimise disruption.

Retail diamond jewellery sales remain satisfactory in the wake of the recent price increases. Good gains have been reported in Japan and America, which together account for 60 per cent of diamond sales. Germany aside, demand across Europe has been strong. Investment income rose 14 per cent to \$166 million (\$145 million), due largely to a substantial increase in the final dividend paid by Anglo American Corporation. Lower borrowing requirements saw interest payable fall from \$40 million to \$32 million.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buy	Bank Sell
Australia \$	2.09	1.93
Austria Sch	17.14	15.84
Belgium Fr	80.24	80.04
Canada \$	2.234	2.074
Cyprus Cyp£	0.748	0.691
Denmark Kr	8.44	8.04
Finland Mk	7.46	6.81
France Fr	8.46	7.80
Germany Dm	2.45	2.24
Greece Dr	382	357
Hong Kong \$	12.84	11.64
Iceland Iskr	113	93
Israel Shk	1.01	0.93
Italy Lira	1,528	1,461
Japan Yen	2460	2305
Malta Mls	18.80	17.80
Netherlands Gld	0.584	0.538
New Zealand \$	2.725	2.495
Norway Kr	2.41	2.19
Portugal Esc	10.47	9.67
Spain Ps	247.20	228.80
S Africa Rd	7.80	7.30
Sweden Kr	301.50	285.50
Switzerland Fr	10.34	10.14
Turkey Lira	2.00	1.82
USA \$	1.2770	1.2470
USA \$	1.890	1.890

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

BOC after

Pifco brew launch of h

BMW driv

Utility bosses get their just desserts □ Carlsberg-Tetley delay becomes an embarrassment □ Coutts has its rates crossed

Littlechild's Grid pro quo

IT'S official. The National Grid really are a bunch of greedy fat cats who pay themselves above the odds. Don't take this column's word for it — listen to the industry regulator.

Stephen Littlechild's proposed price cuts for the Grid, at the harsher end of City predictions, can in part be funded by cutting levels of remuneration that are rather higher than elsewhere in the industry. Professor Littlechild said so himself.

This suggests that the once accident-prone professor may at last have learned a little about public relations, steep and bumpy though the learning curve may have been. The Grid was, politically, the best utility of the lot to kick for several reasons.

The management, with one honourable exception, held onto £400,000-plus of special dividends that became payable on purely technical grounds when the business was floated in December, along with generous share options. This brought the entire privatisation process into disrepute and provided the ul-
timate face-act row, causing outrage in Whitehall that eclipsed even the fuss caused by Cedric Brown. Not long after, the country nearly ran out of power.

Second, the Grid was not sold to the public but hived off by the 12 regional electricity distributors. Their shareholders got it

for free, even as many were accepting windfall profits from the various takeover bids in the sector. Starving widows and orphans they are not. Third, the shares have been an absolute dog ever since December despite the curious and as yet unexplained purchase by James Capel of 12.5 per cent of the company in May. Much of the regulator's harshness, therefore, is already in the price.

Professor Littlechild has followed usual practice in such reviews by sending in a hit squad of management consultants to rubbish any squeals by the company for mercy. For example, the consultants found that the Grid has always over-estimated its capital spending, and a projected figure of £1.1 billion over the next four years could easily be cut to £700 million.

Total costs of running the Grid have fallen by almost 40 per cent since the last regulatory review, and the consultants felt there was rather more to come. A contrary view by the Grid itself was somewhat weakened by the planned job cuts already announced. So analysts decided

that the effect of the proposed price cuts would not be mass starvation in the Grid boardroom. The company might have to cut dividend growth to just a little ahead of the rate of inflation. It really is that tragic. A pure utility, and so one of the safest investments around, will still be able to produce a real return for investors.

The Grid, after a period of unattractive whingeing, is likely to cave in rather than go to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, at least if the directors have any sense. This last is not proven, but the professor should still hold his ground.

Allied fast heading for closing time

ALLIED DOMESTIC is in danger of looking pretty foolish over the sale of the Carlsberg-Tetley brewer. Yesterday marked the passing of the third self-imposed deadline to announce formal details of the deal. Details came there none.

This is especially silly because we all know them back to front



by now. Bass is buying the matching 50 per cent stakes in Carlsberg-Tetley, Britain's third biggest brewer, held by Allied and Carlsberg of Denmark. Allied is taking £200 million in cash, Carlsberg a fifth share in the business once it is merged with Bass's own breweries.

There, that hardly hurt at all, did it? No one is claiming that the deal will not go ahead, providing competition concerns are allayed. There are no alternative buyers, and all concerned need it to happen. Most of the substantive issues, such as the continuing supply of beer to Allied's pubs, seem to be solved. No one is even arguing over the price being paid.

The delay is unfortunate

because the various parties, in their exasperation, are starting to point fingers at which one is dragging their feet, and most of those fingers point at Allied. "Short of resources" and "over-reliant on advisers" are among the politer accusations being made against Allied, which responds with agonising talk of dotting and crossing its.

Let us be fair. Three parties are involved, which always slows things, and it is August after all. But the unconscionable delay is damaging both Carlsberg-Tetley as a business and more important, Allied's reputation.

This was none too edgy when Sir Christopher Hogg started as chairman in April. Sir Christopher was sold to the City as a decisive general who would get things done. There followed four months of trench warfare. If the lawyers are delaying over the details, and lawyers always do, that is why they insist on being paid by the hour, their progress should be firmly accelerated. When the deal is finalised — next week? Only probably — the whole thing must come out without any further problems or

missed deadlines. Then Sir Christopher should get on with the various other things that need to be done at Allied.

A bridge too far

A COLLEAGUE applied for a bridging loan with Coutts & Co, the bank that likes to think of itself as above the undignified hurly-burly of the rest of the banking sector. The bank agreed over the phone acceptable terms of base rate plus 2 per cent for the length of the loan.

A few days later a truly surreal document arrived from Coutts. Interest on the loan would be calculated "at the rate of 2 per cent above the Bank's base rate, which is presently 5 1/2 per cent," it said, "subject to a minimum combined rate of 10 per cent per annum, i.e. an effective rate of 10 per cent per annum at the present time." In other words, you can have 2 per cent above base rates, but only when those rates are 8 per cent or more. Mike Bell, Coutts's head of control, admitted the actual fig-

ures quoted were "rather unusual" as he defended the use of minimum rates as common in retail banking. Coutts's actions are legal, because they can set whatever rate they wish. They are unethical, because 2 per cent above base rates, as initially agreed, should mean just that. There are only two explanations. One is that the bank regards base rates below 8 per cent as so freakish an anomaly, and so unlikely to last, that it was not worth redrafting the stationery to cope with this temporary statistical blip.

The second is that the top people's bank thinks its customers are "too financially unsophisticated" to check the fine print. As to our friend, he objected vociferously, and was offered 8 per cent. Clearly it pays to negotiate.

Safe as houses

IF COUTTS'S seemingly gloomy views on interest rates are correct and property prices tumble again as a consequence, then mortgage lenders or their insurers are set to lose a packet, because the negative equity guarantee now offered by Halifax can be expected to become standard. More likely the Halifax has judged the market right, and the new "insurance" will prove to be a safe bet for lenders.

BOC takes a tumble after orders setback

By PAUL DURMAN

SHARES of BOC Group fell 43p yesterday as the industrial gases company revealed a collapse in orders at Edwards, its vacuum pumps business.

Danny Rosenkranz, BOC's chief executive, was surprised at the scale of the sell-off, which pushed the shares down to 853p and wiped more than £200 million off the company's stock market value.

He said: "That's grossly overdone. I've got a lot more faith in the company than that."

Edwards is the leading maker of the pumps used in making computer chips. A glut of chips has prompted semiconductor manufactur-

ers to cut back sharply on their investment plans. The reverse came as a shock to the City, because three months ago BOC said that Edwards was still enjoying a strong order book.

With results from BOC's healthcare division also disappointing, analysts slashed their profit forecasts for next year and beyond. Kleinwort Benson trimmed this year's forecast by £5 million to £445 million, but cut £45 million from its estimates for 1997 and 1998.

The bad news from Edwards overshadowed third-quarter results showing that BOC's pre-tax profits rose 11 per cent to £327.3 million in the nine months to the end of

June. Sales increased by 8 per cent to just short of £3 billion, and earnings per share climbed 11 per cent.

The main gases business increased operating profits by 10 per cent to £300.5 million. BOC said sales and profits improved in nearly all regions. The group has just won a large contract to build an oxygen and nitrogen plant for Tata Iron & Steel in India, and has agreed to acquire a controlling interest in a leading Russian industrial gas company.

The problem of falling orders has yet to hurt Edwards's results, so BOC's vacuum products and distribution services division was able to increase operating profits by

37 per cent to £66.5 million for the nine months.

Ohmeda, the healthcare business, continues to suffer generic competition to Forane, its off-patent anaesthetic gas. With US demand for anaesthesia machines also showing weakness, Ohmeda's third quarter profits fell by 27 per cent, leaving the nine month total 15 per cent lower at £39.1 million.

Mr Rosenkranz said: "Our performance is pretty solid. People seem to forget that over 70 per cent of our sales is gases, and that last year gases accounted for three-quarters of our profits and over 80 per cent of our investment."

Times, page 26



Michael Webber, chairman, who announced the "world's most advanced jug kettle"

Pifco brews profit rise for launch of high-speed kettle

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

THE saying "A watched kettle never boils" may soon become obsolete. Pifco, the electricals group, is launching a jug kettle using new technology that will nearly halve the time needed to boil water.

The kettle uses a stainless steel disc that will deliver heat straight into the water, unlike the traditional metal element, which has to heat itself first. It will also use

three kilowatts of power, rather than the usual 2.2 kilowatts, and it will be resistant to limescale.

The kettle, which Michael Webber, chairman of Pifco, describes as "the most advanced in the world", will be available from September 3.

Pifco is planning to manufacture up to 10,000 per week and the company is also looking at other possible uses for the technology, which it

has heavily patented. Pifco announced the launch of the new kettle yesterday when it reported pre-tax profits up 16 per cent, to £3.12 million, and sales up 12 per cent, to £41.8 million, for the year ended April 30.

The final dividend of 3.15p per share, up from 2.85p, is payable on October 9 and makes a full-year dividend of 5.45p, an increase of 10 per cent on last year.

General Cable plays numbers game free

By ERIC REGULY

GENERAL CABLE, the cable company that recently took control of Yorkshire Cable for £160 million, said yesterday that it will introduce phone number portability in January and probably will not charge customers to switch over.

Portability allows customers to keep the same number when they change to competing operators. The lack of portability was considered one of the main barriers to creating a free market in the residential sector. Ofel, the telecoms regulator, took the issue to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission last year after accusing BT of delaying its introduction.

Nynex, was the first cable operator to introduce portability. It is charging BT customers a £20 one-off fee, about £8 of which goes back to BT.

David Miller, General's finance director, said a transfer charge would scare off potential customers and has decided to absorb most of the costs itself. The company reported a pre-tax loss of £12.8 million in the half year to June 30 against a £10.9 million loss. Turnover rose 46 per cent to £35.3 million. The deeper loss was due to higher interest and depreciation charges. General Cable has had positive operating cash flow for the past nine months and said its cable-TV disconnection rate has declined from 30 per cent to 23 per cent.

Challenge by rebel names set to begin

A HIGH Court challenge to the Lloyd's of London's recovery plan is expected to begin today after the two-day adjournment granted on Monday.

Members of the 3,000-strong Paying Names Action Group (PNAG), which is challenging the legality of the Reconstruction and Renewal (R&R) plan, are understood to have received the necessary funds to enable the action to proceed. The case is expected to last three days, with judgment due on August 19.

Sedgwick weathers the storm with £64 million

By ROBERT MILLER

SEDGWICK GROUP, the international insurance broker, weathered tough trading conditions, including sharp falls in insurance rates, to post a 2 per cent rise in half-year profits to £64.1 million.

Worldwide brokerage and fees rose by 4 per cent to £467.3 million in the six months to June 30, while revenue rose to £490.2 million compared with £474.8 million in the same period last year.

Sedgwick operates in 68

countries, dominated by the United States, mainland Europe and the UK, Canada and Asia Pacific.

Sax Riley, chief executive, welcomed the Reconstruction and Renewal plan for the insurance market at Lloyd's. He said there were considerable grounds for optimism about the successful outcome of the Lloyd's survival plan than at any time in the recent past.

Sedgwick, which announced a 7 per cent increase in earnings per share to 7.8p,

lifted its half-time payout to 3.75p, payable on October 21, from 3p previously. The 0.75p increase, however, was due to a foreign income dividend enhancement.

Mr Riley said: "We remain confident of the final outcome for the full year. We continue to reduce our dependency on the volatility of the insurance cycle and to invest in strategic and specialist areas which we regard as having the potential for growth."

On the Stock Exchange the shares closed 5p lower at 125p.

General Accident

Strong Second-Quarter Performance

6-MONTHS' RESULTS		
	6 Months to 30.6.96 Estimated £m	6 Months to 30.6.95 Estimated £m
General Premiums	2,299	2,179
Underwriting Result	(111)	(9)
Net Investment Income	266	240
Life Profits	46	34
Operating Profit before Taxation	194	257
Profit attributable to Ordinary Shareholders	237	202
Operating Earnings per Ordinary Share	26.9p	38.5p
Interim Dividend per Ordinary Share	11.4p	10.7p

- Operating pre-tax profit of £194m follows a profit of £138m in the second quarter.
- Excellent second quarter performance in the UK.
- US results impacted by adverse weather in both the first and second quarters.
- Second quarter underwriting profit in Canada.
- Increased worldwide underwriting deficit influenced by additional weather losses of £56m.
- Strong new business production in UK pensions.
- Current solvency margin 74%. Net assets per ordinary share 657p.

Bob Scott, Group Chief Executive, comments:

"The actions we are continuing to take to strengthen our competitive position worldwide are producing positive results in all our major business units."

General Accident plc

General Accident plc, World Headquarters: Pitheavlis, Perth, Scotland PH2 0NH

The results are also available on the Internet: <http://www.ga.co.uk>

BMW drives to Rover's defence

By OLIVER AUGUST

BMW, the German carmaker, tried to douse mounting speculation yesterday that its takeover of Rover Group in 1994 had gone wrong, saying the British group was running as planned and that results would only get better.

Persistent talk that Rover, which BMW bought in an attempt to expand beyond its luxury car base, is in worse financial shape than BMW is letting on reached a fever pitch yesterday with a critical report from an influential financial house.

BMW's share price fell DM12 to DM29 on the Frankfurt Stock Exchange

after a report from Salomons but later recovered to end down DM5. The report comes three weeks before the arrival of Walter Hasselhaus as the first German chief executive of Rover. He is poised to accelerate Rover's integration with BMW.

BMW said that Rover's loss of DM335 million in 1995 was "the peak", but was unable to say by how much the loss at Rover would decline this year. "Rover is running according to plan when you recall that we said Rover would not make any significant contribution to group earnings in this decade," BMW said. But a growing number of investors fear it may take longer than that and that BMW will

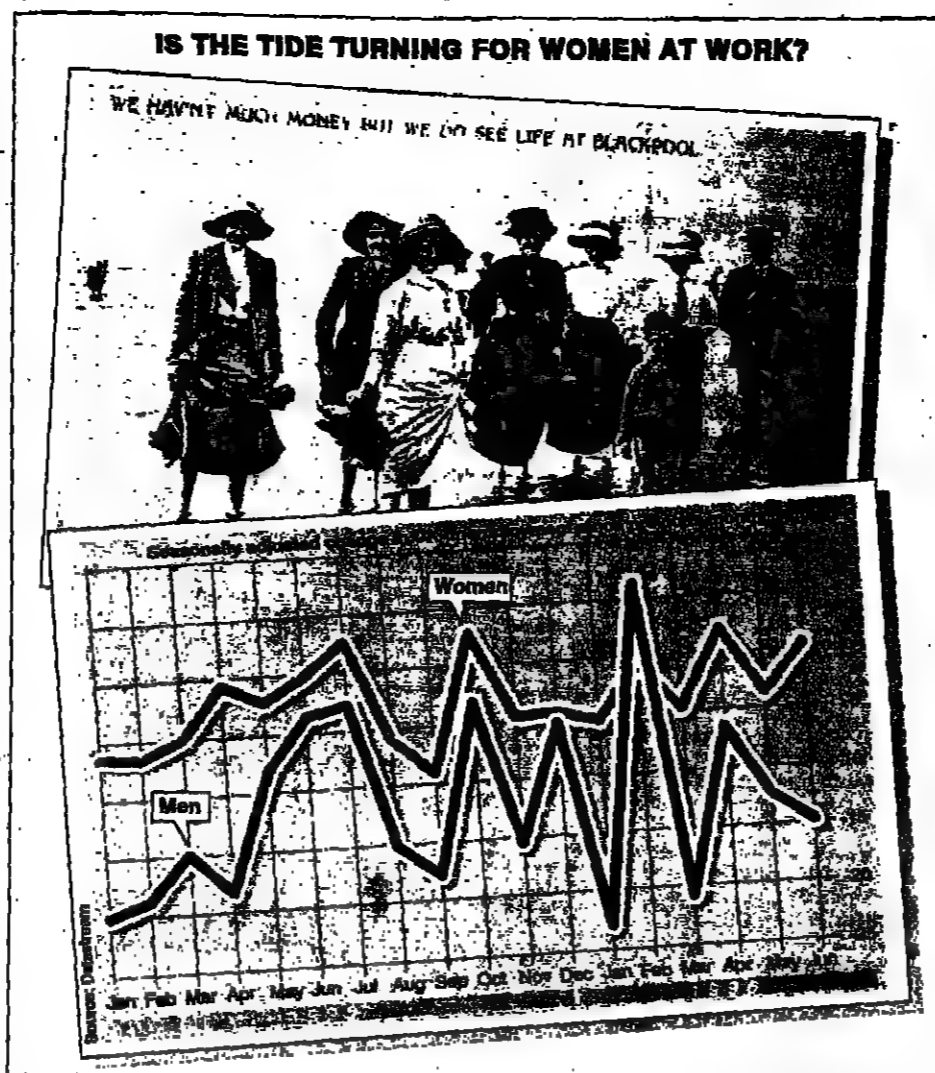
have to pump billions of marks beyond what was expected to bring Rover earnings up to speed.

Salomon Brothers said that Rover needs huge amounts of investment from BMW and must streamline its product range. "Rover emerges as the European volume manufacturer with the most work to accomplish industry standards and clearly needs a radical transfusion from its parent if it is to emerge as a premium carmaker," said Salomon.

Rover also denied the report's accuracy. "It's too early to draw conclusions when the relationship is still very young," said Rover.

When a woman's work has never been harder to do

Job prospects look worse for women than for men, says Philip Bassett



Of unemployment fell an average of 10,100 a month from June 1995 to June 1996, four times faster than the rate of decline among women, for whom claimant unemployment has been dropping at an average of only 2,300 a month.

Other figures suggest some curious movements among women in the labour market, according to an analysis carried out by *The Times*. Take employment, rather than unemployment. Employment overall has been growing, but the most recent figures from the Government's Labour Force Survey (LFS) — a quarterly study of a sample of 50,000 households — shows that between winter and spring this year, the most recent period available, employment fell by 34,000. Within that, male jobs dropped by 4,000, and female by 30,000, or 1.5 per cent, in a single quarter.

Ministers argue that these falls follow a long series of large-scale rises in job num-

bers, though Whitehall economists accept that such figures are now giving off "mixed" signals about the labour market. Among employees — excluding the self-employed, those on Government training schemes, and so on — the figures are even more stark: the total number of female employees is down over the period by 28,000, while the total of male employees rose by 23,000.

Part of the answer about female employment rests in overall activity rates. The number of people counted as economically active — those over 16 who are in work, or unemployed — is rising, but again the last quarter, according to the LFS, saw a change, with 6,000 fewer men cited as economically active, and three times that number of women.

One of the key divides in the UK labour market, between full-time and part-time employment, may help to explain the divide. After a year of growth, full-time employment

the beginning of summer, male clerical employment rose 1.3 per cent, or by about 12,000 jobs. But the number of women fell — by 0.8 per cent, or about 22,000 jobs.

In selling, where women make up about 70 per cent of the 1.3 million jobs, male jobs rose by 19,000, or about 2.7 per cent, in the last quarter, while women's fell 2.7 per cent, or about 36,000 jobs.

Over the last quarter, according to the LFS, male employment in manufacturing rose by some 69,000, or almost 2 per cent, while women's jobs, showed only a 2,000 rise, or just 0.2 per cent.

Sony in South Wales recently expanded its operations but was unable to recruit the women it wanted to fill its target of an additional 400 workers. Looking for women to work in the plant, and as quality checkers, it found itself with a shortfall of about 100, which it had to make up by taking on temporary and other short-term staff.

Part of these difficulties are likely to stem from the acute problem for working women of childcare. LFS figures show that 36 per cent of employed, working-age women have dependent children under 16. More than two thirds of such women now use childcare, though for 45 per cent the only arrangement available is informal, provided by relatives. Only 12 per cent use professional childcare, predominantly childminders.

Yet despite the struggle to balance work and family life, women appear to be more satisfied than men at work. A study on job satisfaction in Britain, published in the *British Journal of Industrial Relations*, uses data from the Government's British Household Panel Survey to show that nearly two thirds of women report overall job satisfaction, compared with half of men. That may be because male work cultures still place greater pressure on men to achieve, while other factors include differences in qualifications, a longer-hours culture and the fact that women, despite their larger role as breadwinners, find it easier than men to leave the labour force completely.

Whether such job satisfaction levels can be sustained when many recent trends in the labour market seem to be running against women will be a significant employment issue. But as women pack up the sun tan lotion and the summer reading and head back to work, the immediate reality of their jobs market looks difficult: unemployment either falling only slowly, or rising; employment falling faster than for men; part-time jobs for women dropping back; and traditional "women's work" declining too.

New Labour and a new life for the gilts market

Roger Bootle is at it again. His tips are what one might expect from a man who owns the leg of a horse, but they are not for the 1990s — ever-falling inflation — was laughed out of the market when it first appeared. But inflation has fallen, his book, *The Death of Inflation*, is in its third printing, and by now the Bank of England and its acolytes seem to be the only dissenters. So you missed the boat in gilts, as these accurate forecasts should imply? No, you didn't. The consensus inflation forecasts may have caught up with Bootle, but the bond market has not. Hence prospective real yields of 6 per cent or more.

Dealers explain this readily: the globalised gilts market does not trade on inflation forecasts, but on exchange-rate expectations. The trade outlook is murky, with a consumer boom expected to demand higher imports, but the political outlook is much worse. The market is now discounting a Labour victory, and Labour is traditionally the party of devaluation. QED. Wrong again, says Bootle. Wrong as history, still worse as a forecast.

The record backs him up: study a chart of sterling's long decline, and then guess who ruled. For more than a century sterling was as good as gold; the last-ditch defender of that standard was Snowden, a Labour Chancellor. (One fear about new Labour is that Gordon Brown could prove another Snowden.) Then came devaluation and boom under Tory patronage. After the war, more last ditchers first the Atlee and then the Wilson governments resisted reality for too long, and paid for it. By 1970, stability, then Heath, unleashed the great inflation.

The consequent slide in sterling was checked only by North Sea oil; but then came falling oil prices, Nigel Lawson, and finally Black Wednesday. Not even the most committed City Tory could make much of a case for the Conservatives as guardians of sterling. Indeed, the history of the last decade is quite enough to explain the unflattering

margin of gilt yields over the corresponding French and German bonds. But US bonds are surely another story. Since the Conservatives came to power, the dollar has fallen even against sterling.

Why, then, are US Treasuries not equally penalised? Because the economy is strong and the dollar is now undervalued, say dealers. It can now be expected to rise, as yields suggest. Yet this is the core of Bootle's economic case: Britain also has a strong economy (by European standards, anyway) and an undervalued currency though not against the dollar. The same rules should apply, but they don't.

Which brings us back to politics. Bootle believes that new Labour's new austerity is genuine, and that the Brown fiscal stance would be tighter than Clarke's (especially the post-November Clarke). He would certainly be less inhibited than Clarke about raising taxes; good for gilts. More important, Labour is Euro-friendly. If a new government starts edging towards EMU, the core members would be determined to see sterling higher against the Euro before entry.

Result: a few months into a Labour government the market would be backing sterling as a rising currency. Indeed, argues Bootle, there might be an inverted sterling crisis. If Gordon Brown then wanted to cut interest rates to cap sterling without provoking a stop-go consumer boom, he could deploy weapons which have been barred from the Conservative armoury. Hire-purchase controls, could be revived (this last is my own argument, not Bootle's).

A rising currency, a tighter budget, falling interest rates, and some check on consumer credit: what more could the gilts market want? It is at the very least a plausible story; more plausible if you remember that new Labour is highly impressed with the Clinton-Greenspan economic record. Then recall that Bootle was right last time. Anyone for a long position in the longs?

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Checking out of the B&B

AFTER spending thousands of pounds on lawyers fees, the Bradford & Bingley has written to Michael Hardern, chief building society carpet-bagger, saying that it no longer wants him as a member. The B&B put its foot down after Hardern was recently denied access to membership files belonging to the Building Societies Commission, because he was "not a righteous cause". According to John Wriglesworth at B&B, Hardern is "frivolous" and "only interested in trying to convert us". Both Hardern's money and his interest have since been returned to him. Meanwhile, Wriglesworth admitted yesterday that he holds accounts in other building societies, including the Skipton, tipped to go public.



Wriglesworth: society accounts

Down the hatch

THE last watering hole belonging to a bank is set to take last order. Not for much longer are thirty employees at the Yorkshire Bank, which is owned by the National Australia Bank, likely to be able to meander from their desks to their first-floor bar for a swift and subsidised half. The wood-panelled drinking area, swash with flora, dates back to 1981, when the bank moved from Leeds city centre to Merion Way.

Media move

AFTER lengthy talks, analysts Neil Blackley and Meg Geldens are switching sides. They are moving from Goldman Sachs to Merrill Lynch and will continue to cover the European media sector. At James Capel in the early 1990s, Blackley worked alongside Richard Dale, who defected from Merrill to Salomon Brothers earlier this year — Blackley claims to have taught him all he knows.

Hobday's choice

WHO better than radio broadcaster Peter Hobday to lecture on "Crisis Management" — for those who don't want to end up all at sea? At a conference hosted by training company Hawkemere? The former member of the *Today* team who caused uproar among fans last March when he was told that Radio 4 no longer required his services, will also lecture on "How to give the media what they want, while achieving what you need."

Inside out

MANCHESTER City Council has given the go-ahead for a local photographer to turn the Arndale Shopping Centre, which was damaged by a terrorist bomb in June, into a work of art. Nigel Lucas plans to cover the entrance opposite Marks & Spencer with huge photographs of the interior of the building. Lucas's "inside-out" idea is not unlike that of Rachel Whiteread, who covered a terraced house in London with cement. So far, the council has said it will contribute half of the £40,000 installation fee, and companies including M&S and P&O, are being approached for the remainder.

MORAG PRESTON

Teamworking points up the strains in a mail preserve

Christine Buckley looks behind the dispute that is a threat to the Royal Mail's letter monopoly



Seal of disapproval: a familiar sight during the dispute

Most postal deliveries will be halted today as the seven-week dispute between Royal Mail and the Communication Workers Union continues. At the heart of the issue is teamworking — the work practice that has been described as the most fundamental change in the history of Royal Mail. It is the condition that has led to the protracted industrial action and triggered the suspension of the Post Office's monopoly.

Teamworking is far from being a new concept and has swept through British industry, gaining currency with management in recent years on the back of the total quality management approach.

The practice became the norm in practically all of the UK's car plants in the late 1980s and early 1990s where its advocates claim that it has fuelled much of the increased productivity. Elsewhere in manufacturing and service sectors it has caught on as employers embrace its principles of looser structures and higher levels of responsibility spread across the workforce.

Last year the Labour Research Department (LRD) found teamworking in 52 per cent of its survey workplaces, while 36 per cent had introduced it over the previous two years. It involves grouping workers around production or service processes. Tasks are delegated by managers but teamworkers will be required to perform them flexibly, with previously designated roles abolished. Teamworking removes some of the managerial role although teams have leaders with responsibility for training, development and for some working conditions.

Perhaps the biggest union concern over teamworking stems from a fear that their influence and communication with members will be eroded. A workplace representative at British Aerospace told the LRD that team leaders were used to drive a wedge between

members and the union. At Dunlop-Topy Wheels there was reported to be concern that the practice undermines communication with shop stewards and that teams compete against each other. One union representative at Vauxhall Motors told the researchers that morale fell after teamworking was agreed.

Unions also believe teamworking will assign responsibilities to workers for which they are not properly paid or rewarded through status. It can cut out grades of promotion and consequently lessen pay aspirations.

The MSF, in an internal guide, summed up the mixed union views: "At its best it can provide a supportive environment in which the normal emphasis on status and authority is reduced and common objectives shared. It can also allow people to take on new roles. On the other hand... it can result in conflict being individualised and... relationships within the team may be competitive rather than co-operative."

Royal Mail's proposition works separately for different operations. For example, it would envisage that a delivery team could operate on nine or so members. In such a team, the main difference of teamworking would be to introduce responsibility by each member for all route deliveries; at present individuals have responsibility for a particular route.

Royal Mail hopes that teamworking will move towards smoothing confrontations. It says: "Formerly, if an argument developed between a driver and a foot postman over the size of packets to be taken by the driver, it would need to be resolved by a manager; under teamwork all team members, which now include the driver, have an interest in rapidly finding a harmonious solution."

However, the CWU is highly critical of the shaping of teamworking by Royal

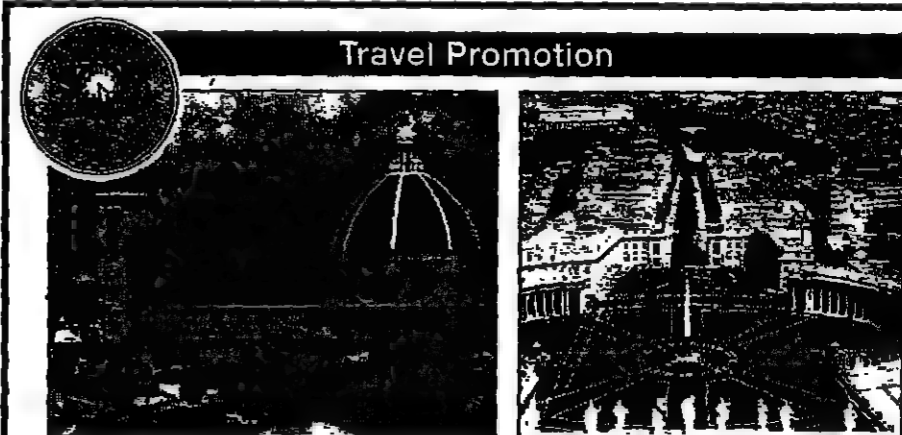
Mail. Alan Johnson, joint general secretary, said that far from offering flexibility the first configuration of teamworking introduced fixed duties, including less rotation of work requiring unsocial hours, and greater demarcation in certain areas.

But Mr Johnson, who brokered the peace deal at Acas rejected by the union's postal executive, believes the two sides could still produce a practical reorganisation of work methods, given co-operation. "The only way to move forward would be for both of us to embark on a genuine voyage of discovery... but the executive felt this would only lead to one thing — teamworking," he said.

Teamworking operated in parts of the US Postal Service through an Employee Involvement scheme. The National Association of Letter Carriers had been a strong advocate of the programme, which had been drafted with the employers in an effort to reduce the "bitter, adversarial relationship detrimental to the interests of all concerned — workers, management and the American mailing public."

However, in implementing the system NALC ran into a barrage of criticism. Some complained that NALC had got into bed with the management, and the American Postal Workers Union, the largest post union, categorically rejected Employee Involvement. In April the employers pulled out of the 14-year agreement blaming decreases in overall productivity and increases in grievance activity.

Earlier this year, a study by the Warwick Business School into Rover's Cowley plant, conducted in 1994 and 1995, suggested that the boom in production at Cowley may be better explained by a new car, plant investment and logistics improvement. Supporting this argument was the fact that output had improved in areas of the plant where teamworking did not operate.



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DANCE

Fresh steps for Mikhail Baryshnikov: the ballet star prepares his new style for London



FESTIVAL

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THE TIMES ARTS



TOMORROW

Edinburgh reviews include Miranda Richardson in a new staging of Virginia Woolf's *Orlando*



TOMORROW

... while our coverage of the week's new films includes Jack Nicholson in *The Crossing Guard*

The star who came in from the old

James Bone talks to Mikhail Baryshnikov, who brings his modern dance troupe to the London Coliseum next week

It is 22 years since Mikhail Baryshnikov bolted from the Kirov Ballet in Toronto and became a darling of the West. Since then he has tasted all the blandishments of the New World: starring on American network television, performing on Broadway, acting in Hollywood, marketing his own line of fragrances.

You might expect that, at 48, "Misha" would be contentedly enjoying the fruits of his superstardom, or struggling to please the fans with flagging performances like those of the ageing Rudolf Nureyev. Instead, he has set aside his frivolous dalliances with celebrity and found a new sense of purpose. The "premier danseur" has hung up his ballet slippers and now tours barefoot as a modern dance maestro.

"Of course, I am a grandfather for a classical dancer. But I do not pretend to be a classical dancer," he says, his fierce aquamarine eyes defying criticism. "A lot of people in contemporary dance come on stage in their sixties and

seventies. There is no problem with that if you are in tune with the choreography."

British fans will get the opportunity to see Baryshnikov strut his stuff when his modern dance collective, the White Oak Dance Project, performs at the London Coliseum next week. And as they will discover, the pint-sized dancer still has the power to mesmerise.

"My craft just mutated into something else," he explains. "When you are young and full of energy, you tend to over-dance all your material. Later you start to find different aspects of movement which you had overlooked. That opened a lot of opportunities for me."

The odyssey that led Baryshnikov to modern dance began when he was a ballet student in the Soviet Union with glimpses of Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers dancing cheek to cheek, and tantalising articles in well-thumbed foreign dance magazines. The son of a senior Soviet military officer and a seamstress, Baryshnikov had joined the



Mikhail Baryshnikov (centre) with members of the White Oak Dance Project. His name helps to ensure packed houses, allowing them the artistic freedom to experiment

local Riga Theatre Opera Ballet as a child, moving to the Kirov Ballet at the age of 16.

Although the same legendary troupe had produced George Balanchine, who fled the Soviet Union in 1924 and eventually became head of the New York City Ballet, Mr B's neo-classical work was virtually ignored in his homeland. Visits by foreign dance troupes were few and far between. So like other Kirov stars — Rudolf

Nureyev in 1961, Natalia Makarova in 1970, Valeri and Galina Panov in 1974 — Baryshnikov sought artistic freedom in the West.

On his arrival, like Balanchine before him, he quickly picked up the jazzier American beat. He went immediately to the American Ballet Theatre (ABT) and struck up a professional and romantic partnership with the ballerina Gelsey Kirkland. Soon he was work-

ing with such renowned modern choreographers as Twyla Tharp, whose playful *Push Comes to Shove* of 1976 has become his signature piece. Tired of dancing the same romantic roles that he had learnt in Russia, he left ABT in 1977 and moved to the New York City Ballet to work with Balanchine.

None of the celebrated Soviet defectors has so embraced the American Dream. While dancing in New York, Baryshnikov seized every opportunity to study the vibrant modern dance of his new homeland. Almost every evening he would catch a new film, a Broadway show or a dance performance. Soon he was dabbling in television, earning two Emmy awards for his dance specials. He also starred in the films *The Turning Point*, *White Knights and Dancers*, and fathered a child with the Hollywood actress Jessica Lange.

"Hollywood was a curiosity," he says now, his film career behind him. "It was never serious, but I do not regret it."

Baryshnikov got the chance to indulge his unconventional tastes when he took over as

artistic director of American Ballet Theatre in 1980. During his tenure of almost a decade, he championed the cross-fertilisation of those once mortal enemies: classical ballet and modern dance. In 1988 he asked Twyla Tharp to join the company as an artistic associate. He also commissioned

work by Mark Morris, the precocious and openly gay "bad boy" of modern dance. In 1989, however, Baryshnikov was ousted in a power struggle that left him, at 41, in what amounted to a midlife crisis.

Casting around for a new role, Baryshnikov turned again to Morris, then ensconced in his own self-exile at the Théâtre Royal de la Monnaie in Brussels. After dancing several times for Morris in Belgium, he proposed that the two should collaborate on their own dance venture: the White Oak Dance Project. The company takes its name from a plantation owned by Howard Gilman, a paper magnate and

philanthropist who has sustained the group with support and facilities. At first the troupe danced only works by Morris. But its repertoire has grown to embrace an eclectic range of modern choreographers, and now often favours virtual unknowns. Baryshnikov himself, who now has

three more children with former ABT dancer Lisa Rinhart, has become increasingly like the father-figure of the group, using his box-office pull to help to sponsor the enthusiasms of its younger members.

The way "Misha" tells it, the group sounds like a modern dance Utopia. Eleven experienced dancers take collective decisions about which choreographers they will perform, and tour the world to full houses — all in the name of artistic freedom. "I don't have anything to prove," he declares. "We just work with people we admire."

Baryshnikov plans to perform two solos in London. The

first, *Chaconne*, is by the late Mexican-American choreographer Jose Limon, the other is Morris's *Three Russian Preludes* to music by Shostakovich. Baryshnikov has danced neither piece in Europe before. The group will also stage two pieces by relative newcomers: *What a Beauty* by Craig Patterson, and *Quiet As It's Kept*, the first work by White Oak's own Ruthlyn Salomons.

Even a short conversation with the mature Baryshnikov is peppered with references to being grown-up or "adult". Perhaps he will emulate Merce Cunningham and dance on into old age. Despite three operations on his knees, he insists that he can still dance "flat out". He professes no interest in making a triumphant return to Russia, as Nureyev and Makarova did. Nor does he plan to venture into choreography. For now, he is satisfied just having a "great time" on stage.

"One day I will wake up and say I cannot do it any more. When the time comes, I will deal with it. I will try to be an adult."

White Oak Dance Project is at the Coliseum (0171-632 8300) from next Tuesday to Saturday

THE TIMES

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THE PREMIER LEAGUE

CHANGING TIMES

Belfast sees the funny side

Dark comic sketches about paramilitaries and policemen find a sympathetic audience in a troubled city

The West Belfast Community Festival was started ten years ago in an effort to improve the public image of this predominantly Catholic area. As well as the kind of events that might appear at any annual festival worth its weight in bouncy castles, it also includes political lectures, debates and meetings which give it a unique flavour.

Last year's festival, thanks to the paramilitaries' ceasefire, was held in an atmosphere of ebullient optimism. Twelve months later, tapping into the requisite *joie de vivre* is far more difficult, particularly given the rainstorms that washed the murals from the Lower Falls all the way up to Ballymurphy.

Dubbeljoint theatre company, which regularly premieres new work in West Belfast, usually provides one of the festival highlights. Marie Jones, author of *Night in November*, also wrote this year's production, *Stones in his Pockets*, which concerns two slackers who meet while working as extras on the latest American blockbuster to be filmed in Ireland.

As usual, Jones's choice of subject reflects a current obsession — government film policy in the Republic has seen an unprecedented number of films shot in Ireland during the past two years. Jones's drama sets out to pose the unspoken questions of Hollywood's role in the construction of an Irish identity.

Stones in his Pockets poses these questions poorly. The onus of creating an entire film crew, as well as the population of a village, falls on just two actors,



The Hole in the Wall Gang: echoes of bitter laughter across the political divide

Conleth Hill and Tim Murphy, neither of whom seems comfortable with his task. Few of the voices are given enough time to make themselves distinct before the actors must switch to their next character.

The Hole in the Wall Gang is a Belfast comedy troupe specialising in sharp political satire. Its sell-out show at the Feile began with an RUC "invasion" of the theatre in which members of the group ran in, mounted the stage, "truncheoned" a few bystanders to the floor and announced that the central aisle was on the route of an Orange Order march.

From this point on, the unflinching comedy slashed away at nationalist and Unionist icons with equal vigour. One dark, dark sketch involved a spoof Gaelic athletics commentary delivered as an IRA punishment squad chased its victim — the wrong man — through his house before breaking his legs with hurling sticks. The audience roared with laughter. Your critic shifted uncomfortably in his seat.

Rosie McGurran's approach to framing the conflict and its effects on everyday lives took a far more oblique but equally effective angle. Over the central walkway of the grey, *maignie moderne* Westwood shopping centre, McGurran has suspended *Women of West Belfast*, a sequence of immense pastel drawings.

A girl in *Riverdance* costume is tied into dancing shoes by two elders. Along the aisle, two women watch a burning car, their faces tense with reproach. In more mythical mood, McGurran has a chunky angel soaring over the mall on a sea of flaming petrol bottles.

McGurran's style, developed through painting murals around the area, eschews the rhetoric of many of the gable-end images in Belfast. She opts instead for a more personal language which demonstrates that to speak powerfully does not mean to see things without equivocation.

LUKE CLANCY

Small is THE THEATRE CLUB

HOW TO BOOK



■ EDINBURGH

Gutter humour with an edge: a new play about the Mancunian homeless goes onto the Fringe



■ EDINBURGH

... but the cancellation of Robert Lepage's opening night gives the festival its first debacle

THE TIMES
ARTS

■ EDINBURGH

... and Sir Charles Mackerras also has to overcome problems to produce a thrilling *Fidelio*



■ PROMS

Actor Michael Pennington narrates a performance of Gerhard's chilling work *The Plague*

Tony Burgess wrote about homelessness from experience, as Kate Alderson discovers

Stand-up and be counted

It has been said that if Tony Burgess was a band, he would be Oasis. Both are loud, proud, in-your-face Mancunians who draw on the same kind of wardrobe and hairstyles and are not averse to talking about drink and drugs.



As it happens, the 23-year-old stand-up comedian has a close friend who joined Oasis as their replacement drummer last year but quit after four weeks. Burgess is too loyal to discuss his friend but happy to

talk about the first play he has written, *Comfortable Shoes*, which has just opened on the Edinburgh Fringe.

A wiry man with freckles and strawberry-blond hair, he has been treading the comedy circuit boards for more than three years after winning an "open mike" spot at a Manchester pub. He was 19 then, sitting with his friends having a pint, when he thought: "I'll have a go at that." He admits his performance was far from polished, but it was enough to secure him the attention of an agent, Sandy Gort.

Since then he has toured the country with his stand-up, becoming much in demand in London and winning a dedicated following in Manchester. This is his third year in Edinburgh.

His humour is black and often personal, his style confessional. Anyone who has seen him will know that his



No holds barred: Tony Burgess is happy to discuss the darker side of everyday city life, including drugs and the plight of the young homeless

favourite material is drawn from his Mancunian roots and from a perceptive knowledge of the drug scene. His style is cynical and shambolic, he twists and lurches around his microphone as if in pain and talks with a flat-vowelled nasal whine.

"For me, sex is like the Olympics," one of his gags goes. "It's never going to happen in Manchester."

Burgess is permanently reviewing the content of his routines. Sitting in the Atlas café near the Hacienda nightclub, he sips a pint of Guinness and chain-smokes. "It never entered my mind not to talk about Manchester in my stand-up because I live here. But you leave the place, travel around and realise it's not the centre of the universe."

"I've realised you have to do nicer material as well as the harder stuff. At the end of the day you have to make people laugh. You are not going to make them laugh if you do a 20-minute set on heroin."

Burgess is in Edinburgh to compete a comedy night at the Music Box and to act in *Comfortable Shoes*, which will have a two-week run. The play centres on two homeless

characters, Reebok, played by Burgess, and Barefoot, played by Mark Aitwood. It is a dark, humorous and sometimes painful insight into life on the streets for two Big Issue sellers, including the stealing and drug-taking which form part of their precarious everyday existence.

"Every car, every bus, every tram wants a piece of my head," opines Reebok, who wants to sleep but is prevented from doing so by the constant pounding of feet on the pavement.

While making people laugh, sometimes uncomfortably, Burgess's play is strong enough to chisel and nag at the conscience, reminding its audience about the street people most of us ignore.

Its author knows that it may shock some, while others will claim that its portrayal is inaccurate. But he has drawn on both his own temporary experience of homelessness and the experiences of friends he grew up with who are now sleeping rough on the streets of Manchester.

Two years ago, Burgess had been kicked out of a number of

The pain in Spain

THE main work in Monday's Prom was Roberto Gerhard's *The Plague*, his extraordinary melodrama for speaker, chorus and orchestra revived to mark his composer's centenary. It was nearly appropriate that the performance should have been an Anglo-Spanish undertaking, the BBC Singers and Symphony Chorus joining forces with the Joven Orquesta Nacional de España: the Spanish-born Gerhard considered himself an English composer by the time he came to write the piece in 1963-64.

Indeed, the themes of exile and eventual liberation in the work's literary source, Albert Camus' novel *La Peste*, must have appealed to a composer who had fled Franco's Spain. Though Camus describes a plague and its effects in sickening detail, most readers at the time of its publication (1947) would have recognised allegorical references to the Nazi occupation of France. Gerhard doubtless related it to his own experience, and it still has contemporary resonance; as the end of the plague is celebrated, we are cautioned that the bacteria can "rouse up its rats again and send them forth to die in a happy city".

As the Narrator, Michael Pennington delivered the Orwellian lines chillingly. Every narrative detail is evoked in a

BBC PROMS

Joven Orquesta/Colomer
Albert Hall/Radio 3

score full of febrile tension: the work opens with the fluttering of beaten bows and shimmering percussion, suggesting heat and deadly stillness. Disembodied voices wail, but for the most part the chorus delivers its lines in spoken patter, sometimes whispered, sometimes screamed. On paper such techniques may appear dated, but conducted by Edmon Colomer came across with harrowing power.

The young players were on more familiar territory later. In the *Concierto de Aranjuez* by Joaquín Rodrigo, they conjured up delicately shaded accompaniments to John Williams' solo guitar. He was slightly over-simplified, at the expense of some wind solos, but his playing was achingly tender, perhaps slightly muted at the cadenza's fiery climax. Orchestral ensemble was tighter in a disciplined, unrelenting but never soulless Ravel's *Bohème*.

JOHN ALLISON

Night of the iguana

THE cancellation last month of the Irish leg of the Sex Pistols reunion tour, on which Iggy Pop was billed to play, combined with the postponement of his headlining shows in this small punk-friendly venue made this, the first of two nights at the Mean Fiddler, one of the most eagerly awaited gigs of the year.

And, on the whole, the Ig did not disappoint. Even before he stroled onstage in his shiny black leather trousers and, of course, bare chest, to launch into the classic *I Got a Right*, there was an infectious buzz around a venue packed with a refreshingly diverse cross-section of Pop fanatics.

It wasn't long before this most irrepressible of counter-cultural figureheads built up a head of steam and showed just why he is so revered. The more inspired moments from his recent LP, *Naughty Little Doggie* — most notably *I Wanna Live* — blended with favourites such as *Rain Power* and *Search and Destroy* to send the moshpit into overdrive.

The *Passenger* elicited the most frenzied reaction of the evening. Pop, who had his tail

POP

Iggy Pop
Dublin

up at this point, invited the pop-happy crowd on to the stage to dance with him for the remainder of the song.

But towards the end of the set he seemed to shift down a gear. It should also be said that his backing band, an unsightly bunch who looked as if they had wandered off the set of *Spinal Tap*, were little more than functional. And, on a technical note, the sound was beamed up in excess of the distortion limit.

But all grates aside, this was a tremendously enjoyable gig, partly because by the time Iggy had jumped into the drum kit mid-song, attempted to pull down the stage curtains, and hurled the mike stand, javelinlike, across the stage, he had done enough to get himself arrested had his stage act been in the street outside.

NICK KELLY

Benedict Nightingale finds a prince in darkness at the King's Theatre

Has someone, conceivably an envious Glaswegian, put a hex on an Edinburgh Festival that was meant to be pretty special? Neil Bartlett's *Seven Sacraments of Nicholas Poussin* was announced in all the burial, then cancelled in the author-performer became ill. And on Monday evening the cognoscenti arrived at the King's Theatre to find that this year's opening show, Robert Lepage's *Elisnore*, had at least temporarily bitten the dust.

The reasons for the cancellation of Lepage's one-man foray into Shakespeare seemed ironic. According to the publicity, *Elisnore* is *Hamlet* as it might have been if the Bard had enjoyed access to electronic wizardry. It is "a remarkable synthesis of dazzling theatre technology and cinematic conventions".

But the posters hastily plastered outside the theatre admitted that the problem was "a breakdown of the stage machinery". Maybe Shakespeare was better off with a wooden O and lots of human bodies than with lots of computers and a lone Lepage. Inside the theatre Lepage's compatriot,

To be – or not to be, actually

the High Commissioner for Canada, was pressing glasses of his nation's odd, metallic-tasting wines on his guests. "I had hoped to welcome you to a really great Canadian play," he said diplomatically, "but the mechanics have fallen apart." He then handed over the floor to Lepage's English producer, who explained that the King's technical staff had been working all day getting the theatre's rake flat enough to accommodate an extremely elaborate set, only to find at the last moment that they had failed.

"What do you mean rake?" asked a visiting journalist, puzzled at the idea of so simple an implement needing to be

flattened at all, let alone causing such chaos. Surely a couple of burly Scots with large hammers could sort out any garden tool. It was gently explained that a rake is a slope, and that it was setting up "discrepancies between motor fuses". Whatever these were, they posed a danger to Lepage, who reportedly spends much of the evening doing avant-garde things while upside-down.

Downstairs, the punters got their money back or switched their tickets. Everyone was putting a brave face on an embarrassing and maybe avoidable muddle. Since a performance of *Elisnore* had apparently been cancelled when the show visited Chicago recently, and since the King's is not exactly an unknown quantity, someone, somewhere, had surely bungled. Or was the author of *Hamlet* reaching out from the grave to sabotage a version in which, as the publicity says, "horizontal platforms become vertical walls, perspectives constantly change shape, and Hamlet becomes Gertrude". Newspaper technology allowing, watch this space.

Small is beautiful

THE TIMES
THEATRE
CLUB

IN JUST four years the annual Beverly Festival has established itself as a major event in the chamber music calendar. This year we have arranged a special weekend (September 20 to 22) for Theatre Club members. On the Friday evening the excellent London Winds, directed by clarinetist Michael Collins, will be playing with the festival's artistic director, Martin Roscoe. On Saturday afternoon, the exciting pianists of Trio Wanderer, from France, will whet your appetite for the evening's performance by Roscoe, the clarinetist Emma Johnson and cellist Andrew Shulman. On Sunday afternoon Roscoe will again perform, this time with the Chillingham Quartet. There will be special masterclasses by Collins, Richard Watkins (horn) and Shulman (cello), while the ubiquitous Roscoe will also give a talk about life as a professional pianist. The fully inclusive price of £99 per person includes two nights' accommodation with full English breakfast at the Laigate Hotel, in the heart of this east Yorkshire market town. To book, telephone 01223 312400 (Mon-Fri, 9am to 5.30pm).

HOW TO BOOK — AND JOIN

TO BOOK, please phone the listed number during normal office hours. The price printed on the ticket you receive will be the special price negotiated by the Theatre Club. There may be a transaction charge to cover postage.

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- Jersey Street Theatre**
Aug 19-24
● ENJOY a free glass of wine and meet the star herself after *Lorraine Brunning Sings Piaf*. Tickets £10 (normally £12.50). Tel 0171-287 2575
- EDINBURGH**
Edinburgh Kirkgate
(venue 28)
Aug 28-30, 7.30pm
● TWO tickets for the price of one (normally £5) to performances of *Trivial Theatre Company's* 1995 Festival hit, *In the Solitude of the Cottonfields*, described as "the most dangerous play to have emerged from France in a generation". Tel 0131-225 3626
- PRESTON**
Theatre Royal
Sept 10-11
● SAVE £2 on tickets (normally £6) for *Legend*, a musical based on the life of the great footballer Tom Finney. Tel 01772 258858
- BIRMINGHAM**
Symphony Hall
Sept 5
● TICKETS £12.50, £17.50 and £20 (normally £20.50 to £30) for the Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra. Tel 0121-212 3333
- BRIGHTON**
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Sept 2-5 (7.45pm), 6 (5.30pm)
● TICKETS £8 (normally £14.50) for the smash hit adult comedy, *Ladies Night*, described as a cross between *Up and Under*, *Stepping Out* and the Chippendales. Tel 01273 328488
- BATH**
Theatre Royal
Sept 12
● TWO top-priced seats for the price of one (normally £13 to £19) for the powerful and strange love story *The Mysteries of Mr Love*, by Karoline Leach, starring Paul Nicholas. Tel 01225 448844

Saved by the subs

EDINBURGH well-nigh lost both its Leonore and its Florestan when Gabriela Benackova and Anthony Rolfe Johnson fell ill shortly before the festival's second night. Beethoven night: a concert performance of *Fidelio*. But a possible disaster turned to glory when Anne Evans and Heinz Kruse took over at short notice to lead a totally compelling performance.

Fidelio's inner drama needs no stage dungeon to reveal its darkness, no electrical cunning to signal its movement towards light. In fact, without visual distraction, its struggle of wills is bared to the bone, its collisions of inner and outer thought, its enclosures and its disclosures felt all the more keenly. And with Sir Charles Mackerras conducting the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, the performance frequently took on a quality of intensity more often found in chamber music-making.

And this *Fidelio* was not without its real physical struggles, either. Anne Evans who, even holding a score, brought a characteristic and searing directness of emotional engagement to her Leonore, had to contend with the vagaries of three natural, hand-held horns who accompanied her aria *Komm Hoffnung* — for the first time since Beethoven's day, so we were told. Her words were, indeed, heartfelt.

It seemed a wise decision to limit physical movement to the singspiel episodes, with their lively dialogue; to attempt any degree of semi-staging in the encounter between Leonore and Florestan would have been merely

Fidelio
Usher Hall,
Edinburgh

reductive. But without even the aid of eye-contact, Heinz Kruse's otherwise powerful and vocally resilient Florestan did seem to focus on heroism at the expense of the role's more lyrical aspects.

The virtuosity of the Edinburgh Festival Chorus, however, was uncompromised, even though concert performance made life more difficult for them. In the extra work demanded of the imagination in recreating the prisoners' crescendo towards air and light without any physical ascent, they had an invaluable ally in Mackerras, who paced and controlled the finale to Act I thrillingly.

Chamber music proper had begun the evening in St Cuthbert's Church, where the Vellinger Quartet began the festival's innovative Haydn String Quartet series in which six ensembles, some new, some longer established, will play 46 of the composer's 68 quartets in 18 concerts.

The Vellinger are one of the younger groups, and their playing, bouncing raw and bright off marble pillar and sculpture, had an irresistible keen-eyed vision and spirited physicality. The Mosaques, the Keller and the Lindsays will have a hard act to follow.

HILARY FINCH

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Tony Dawe meets a man with a mission to overcome doubts about outsourcing and financial services

Should a bank let its IT out?

Roger Owens has come to Britain to challenge the perceived wisdom about outsourcing: that companies should consider it only for activities which are not strategic to their business.

On international assignment from IBM headquarters near New York, his task is to persuade banks and other financial institutions in Europe that his company can tackle essential computer-based roles better than they can.

It will be an uphill struggle. Though information technology is the fastest-growing area of facilities management, questions are being asked by consultants and white-collar unions about the validity of contracting out IT.

More than one in four organisations in Britain already contract out system development and maintenance, and one in five have handed over their data systems to specialists, according to a recent survey. But, as one cynic put it, "today's non-strategic function can become

tomorrow's core competence". Mr Owens is undeterred. IBM Global Services, which include the outsourcing division, achieved record earnings of £13.8 billion last year, and he is sure that new European deals will add to that. "People who say you should not outsource any activity which is core to the company are not very accurate," he comments. "A company should take advantage of anything which somebody else can do at a higher level of service for the same price or for a better price with the same quality."

"If the company doesn't take the opportunity, it will be damaging its productivity and forfeiting earnings to its competitors."

He believes the key areas in which banks should consider outsourcing are software development, data-centre operations, desktop management and specific problems which might be common to all of them and could best be tackled by one specialist company.

Banks and other finance houses have been reluctant to



part with such a vital part of their business. But Mr Owens argues that an inefficient company can spend between five and ten times more on software development than a productive one. "Software development is an almost artistic skill, not a scientific one with absolutes," he says. "It is easy, therefore, to spend mil-

lions designing the ultimate user-friendly application when something more basic might do. If a bank needs a new mortgage loan service, it could be more cost-effective to work with a company that has already built one than to spend £20 million developing its own system."

He admits that the advan-

tages an FM company can offer in data-centre operations are small "because it is hard to make a bad deal buying computers". But benefits do accrue from outsourcing desktop management.

He says: "It is becoming increasingly difficult in a fast-evolving world to manage PC software, help desks and the

refurbishment of the hardware within a big company. We are managing about a million workstations under contract around the world and have defined 32 processes for doing it."

Mr Owens believes that companies such as IBM can also help to solve code problems linked to dates after the

year 2000 and the creation of a single European currency. He adds that IBM Global Services is engaged in an attempt to take over IT systems for an international bank with 14,000 programmers worldwide.

Not everyone, however, shares Mr Owens's outsourcing zeal. David Linton, of the Data Group, a computer

and media services company, says: "It is unwise for companies to employ managers who don't understand their own IT systems. They need a few very good systems administrators who know it well and will not suddenly move off to another contract."

"These experts can then safely outsource simpler functions like running the help desk and basic software development."

Unions representing IT workers are encouraging members to fight off outsourcing contracts. Peter Skye of MSF, the white-collar union, claims companies are in danger of handing over their "crown jewels" by outsourcing IT. John Earles of BIFU, the banking union, believes that banks benefit from employing their own staff who have insider knowledge of the business. He says: "We would argue that in many instances outsourcing is not in the interests of the banks, or our members."

The union is producing a guide for members on how to respond to the issue and runs educational courses for those involved in IT. Mr Earles accepts, however, that the arguments of people such as Mr Owens may prove highly persuasive on some occasions.

"When it gets to the stage that we can resist no further," he says, "we would seek to gain the best deal and terms and conditions for our members if the contract involved them transferring to another employer."

A builder — but by any other name, please

training and visits. Details: 0181-675 5211.

Trigon FM, the specialist facilities management company, has been appointed to run the catering, vending and client services facilities at the London offices of Ernst and Young, business advisers.

Fire extinguishers will all have red cases from the end of this year to comply with a

European standard. The single colour will replace the existing colour coding of red for water, cream for foam, blue for dry powder and black for CO₂. From January 1, colour coding on the label will identify the contents.

Chesterton has expanded its facilities and property management business by paying £5.2 million in shares to take over Workplace Management, whose main business is to supply services to ICL, the computer group.

The annual exhibition of British Institute for Facilities Management home counties region will be held at 1000 Great West Road, Brentford, a landmark office building owned by Imry on the M4.

Premier Dining, a dining service provided by Pall Mall Services, has won a contract from Virgin Records for its Grade II listed building in west London.

Mowlem Facilities Management has won a three-year contract to supply services at Quarry House, Leeds, the 100,000 sq ft building occupied by the Benefits Agency, the Central Adjudication Service and the NHS Executive.

The £32 million contract for full facilities management at Thanet Health Care Trust has been won by Bateman/Target ServiceMaster, a joint venture between Bateman Catering, Tarmac and ServiceMaster.

A sophisticated building management system that allows a technician in a store to monitor all services through a single screen has been installed at Marks & Spencer's store at Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk. The system was installed by Andover Controls.

The latest thinking on school, hospital and retail security, terrorism, computer theft and closed circuit television can be shared at this year's Business Security Exhibition seminar at Islington, north London, on October 23 and 24. Details: 0171-721 8400.

British Airways has appointed Symonds FM to provide facilities management and maintenance services at its World Cargo Centre at Heathrow.

Mass Systems is showing the new Archibus/FM computer system — Version 10 for Windows — at FM Expo North 96 at Manchester on October 22 and 23.

The £160bn market

Government initiatives such as market testing and compulsory competitive tendering mean that about two thirds of contracting-out is in the public sector, a report by the Centre for Facilities Management at Strathclyde University shows.

The centre also claims that the potential value of the facilities management market is about £160 billion, much larger than the centre's previous estimate of £54 billion.

The report is the second part of the research into the facilities management market carried out at the university and sponsored by Mowlem Facilities Management. It shows that providers of facilities management services are being given increasing levels of responsibility and are now sharing in budget-setting, the development of service-level agreements and liaison with customers.

The survey found that facili-

ties managers generally report directly to the board, hold responsibility for large portfolios covering several sites and manage budgets of more than £25 million. They prefer outsourcing contracts to be short-term and to cover a single service rather than total facilities management. Most contracts are for building management or for support services.

Though the public sector has accounted for a large proportion of outsourcing, there has not been a landslide towards private contractors undertaking the work, as was predicted when compulsory competitive tendering was introduced.

Private contractors have won just over half the contracts. The greatest success

has come in leisure management, the cleaning of buildings, highway maintenance and construction. They have also been increasing their share of refuse collection contracts. Councils' own staff have tended to win contracts in ground maintenance and vehicle repair and maintenance.

Factors in favour of direct service organisations have been the value of in-house expertise, the ability of existing workforces to improve efficiency and the reluctance of outside contractors to bid for services when they have no direct experience.

The Strathclyde report suggests that the private companies are becoming more aware and more competent in the public-sector market and are offering greater competition against existing local authority workforces.

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THE TIMES Facilities Management

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BUILDING MANAGER OF THE YEAR

SALUTE THE WINNERS

EXPIRES 1996

When robots do the really dangerous jobs

Stephen Hoare looks at the worldwide role of British FM expertise in the multibillion-pound business of decommissioning nuclear power stations

Robots that can strip radioactive waste from ventilation ducts or seal spent fuel and debris inside secure metal containers reduce the risks for human operators. They are opening up the field for consultants, engineers and FM companies to tackle the 100-year task of making Britain's obsolete nuclear power stations safe for future generations.

The Government is bearing the cost of decommissioning — now running at £300 million a year — wiping the slate clean for investors in the coming British Energy privatisation. The nuclear sites that need to be dismantled have all been retained within the public sector, the responsibility of organisations such as the Ministry of Defence, the UK Atomic Energy Authority, British Nuclear Fuels Ltd and Magnox Electric.

BNFL, preparing for a merger with Magnox Electric next year, owns two operational magnox power stations — Calder Hall and Chapelcross — and, with the

merger, will inherit plants that have already closed down, such as Hunterston, Berkeley and Trawsfynydd.

Once at the forefront of the postwar race to develop a source of low-cost energy and plutonium for atom bombs, Britain is now a world leader in clean-up technology, according to Dr Bruce Dean of WS Atkins, specialists in project managing nuclear decommissioning work.

"UK companies are," he says, "learning faster than anyone else because we are coming across these problems sooner."

NNC, the company that built many of the early nuclear power stations, is also heavily involved in dismantling them. Dorothy Gradden, the NNC projects director, says: "Knowing how plants were built is vital in developing cost-effective solutions for their decommissioning." Like many other British contractors, NNC is exporting its skills overseas where it has won a lot of business in the United States and Japan.

Nuclear decommissioning

is a painfully slow process that has to be carried out step by step and costs in Britain will run into tens of billions over the next century. BNFL alone faces a decommissioning bill of £17 billion. With private-sector involvement, costs are being revised downwards all the time. The UKAEA has outsourced just over half its decommissioning work in the past few years and has cut costs by a third.

Key to cutting long-term costs are robots, which carry out a range of tasks, such as controlled-circuit TV inspections, pumping and removal of radioactive sludge, and heavy-duty tasks.

At Windscale, BNFL is using remote-controlled crushers to dismantle the plant's pile chimneys. On a project at nearby Sellafield, a floating robot is being used to drain and dismantle a tank of highly active liquid waste. David Young, of BNFL, says: "At Sellafield we have had to invest £20 million in a new ventilation system and robots just to get the work started. The sums involved are enormous

but robots used in the early stages can pave the way for conventional civil engineering and demolition operations."

The approach has been to split the work into a number of self-contained projects. At the Sellafield site alone, BNFL has completed 25 decommissioning projects since 1980 but it still has a long way to go.

As decommissioning gathers pace, so FM companies are moving in areas once out of

bounds to private contractors. Last year Procord bought UKAEA's in-house facilities arm and now operates six of the authority's sites — Harwell, Culham, Risley, Windscale, Dounreay and Winfrith — on contracts of up to six years.

Away from front-end decommissioning, Procord manages the sites on a care and maintenance basis. Licensed by the Nuclear Installations

Inspectorate, the FM company's work is not confined to a traditional FM role. For example, the company handles the transportation and removal of low-level radioactive waste at Dounreay to a store.

There is also a niche market for specialist FM consultancies to carry out method statements and safety cases. Arney's acquisition in May of Vectra Technologies, a specialist consultant, from its US parent company, adds to its growing FM operation and will help Arney's civil engineering arm to tender for lucrative decommissioning projects.

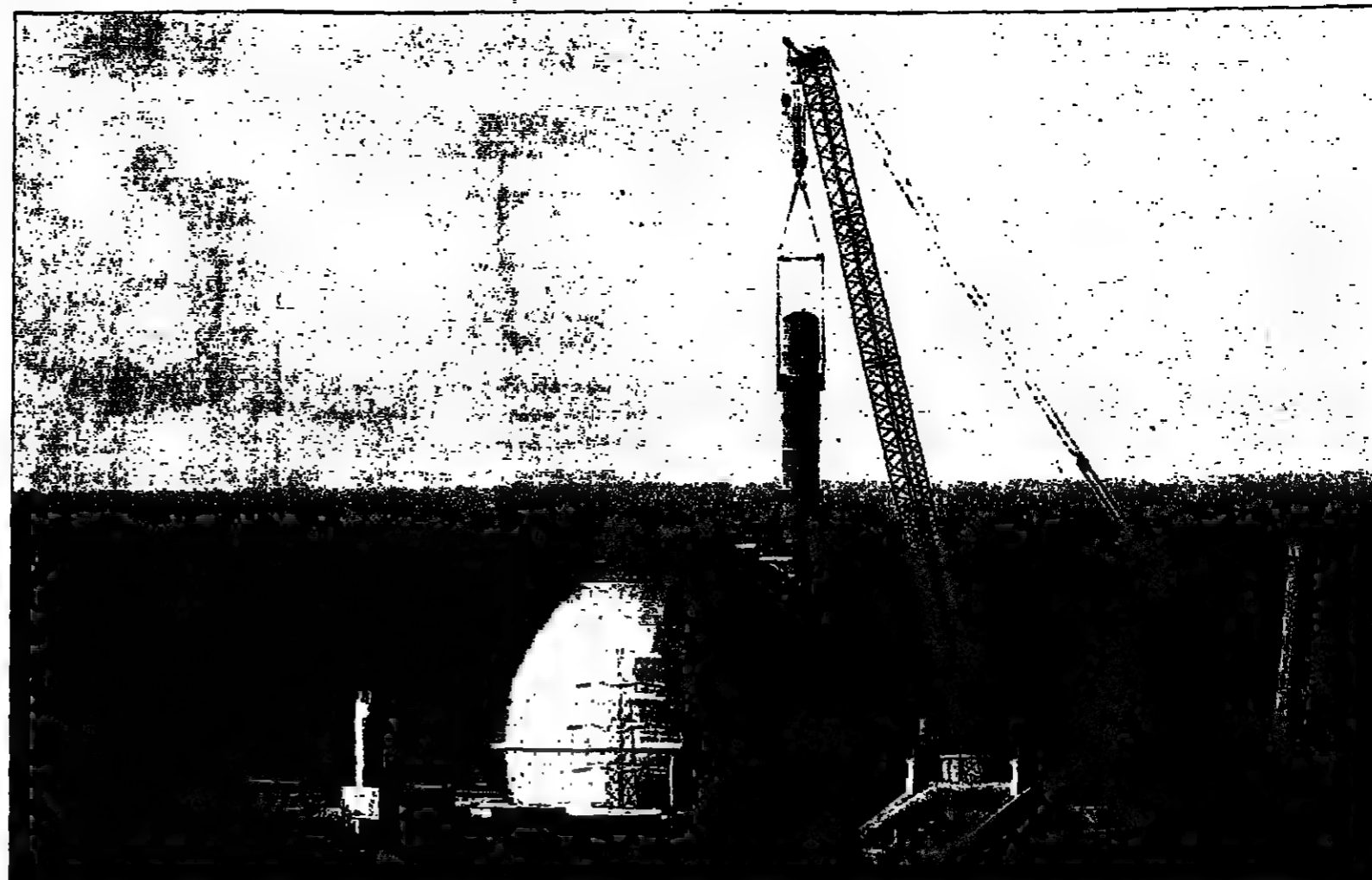
Nell Ashley, Arney's chairman, says: "We were joint-venturing with Vectra on FM in the nuclear industry, so takeover was a logical step. This gives our civil engineering arm valuable health-and-safety expertise and provides Vectra with the clout it needs to go for major projects."

The onward march of the robots could provide a happy ending to the decommissioning saga as government research facilities are moved and former nuclear sites are rendered safe.

At Winfrith in Dorset, Procord has moved UKAEA into new offices on a nearby technology park.

Stewart Wood, managing director of Procord's "nuclear" arm, says: "Many aspects of former nuclear sites are just office complexes in a secure environment."

"Decommissioning will release large areas of land once part of licensed sites to allow the development of business or technology parks of the future."



The cost of decommissioning nuclear equipment is colossal. One of Europe's biggest cranes lifts out a heat exchanger at Windscale

Where staff can't hear the boss

FINDING caterers and cleaners can be hard enough. Finding staff who are also deaf is a task to tax the most dedicated manager.

Initial Healthcare Services faced this challenge in Bedford Hill, near Tooting in south London. A church has been converted at a cost of several million pounds to a unit for deaf people with mental health problems.

The patients had been housed at Tooting's Springfield Hospital, where Initial provided the domestic and linen services. The Pathfinder Mental Health Services NHS Trust asked whether Initial would extend its contract to provide housekeeping for the new unit — but there was a catch. By the year 2000, Pathfinder's deaf division aims to employ at least 50 per cent deaf staff.

Shelley Hutchinson, Initial's contract manager, approached a club specialising in finding jobs for the deaf. It

introduced 18 candidates and provided interpreters to conduct interviews in deaf-and-dumb language. Two further interpreters had to be hired later to conduct training in safety and food hygiene.

"Of the seven staff we employ at the unit, three are totally deaf and three are partially deaf," she says. "The one member of staff with full hearing has a good knowledge of sign language."

Communication with suppliers is mainly done by fax, although the company has also bought Mini-Corn units, which can be used to hold real-time written conversations by phone. In the kitchens, the doorbell is a now a flashing light. But the makers of the industrial ovens and heating equipment have been unable to provide an alternative to the standard audible alarms indicating temperature and cooking times.

PETER BROWN



Amanda Warrick, one of Initial's deaf staff, cleaning the showcase Old Church unit

BUILDING MANAGER OF THE YEAR

Art gallery to soccer stadium

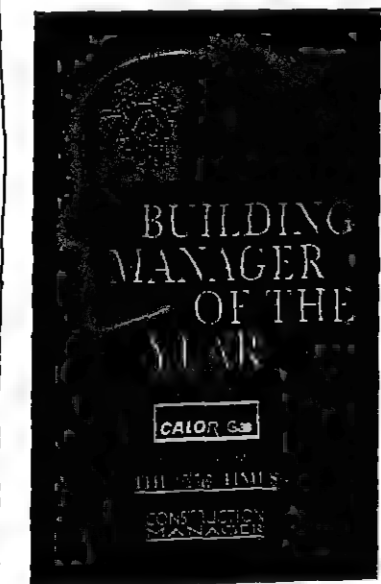
THIS YEAR'S Building Manager of the Year Awards will be announced at the Chartered Institute of Building's annual dinner in London on October 1. The shortlists are as follows:

Category One (projects exceeding £25 million): Boyd McFee, of McAlpine (Motorola's East Kilbride expansion); Peter Roberts, of Bovis (Vectra Project, Manchester); Ivor Simmons, of Taywood Southern (Brent Cross renovation); Robert Clarke, of Bovis (99 Bishopsgate, London); Stephen Pycroft, of Mace (DTI headquarters, London).

Category Two (projects £5 million to £25 million): Nigel Green, of Willmott Dixon (Brunel Gallery, London); Charles Baldwin, of

Wimpey (Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Edgbaston, Birmingham); Tim Renwick, of Mace (Gatwick South Terminal, international departure); Mark Richardson, of Laing (Manchester Crown Courts); Peter Dracup, of Taylor Woodrow (Middlesbrough FC stadium).

Category Three (projects to £5 million): Chris Petty, of John Mowlem (newsprint House, Aylesford, Kent); Stephen Turner, of Hall & Tawse City (Madame Tussaud's and Planetarium); Bob Cross, of Tarmac (office development, Abernethy, Merthyr Tydfil); Rex Schofield, of Wimpey/Tarmac (Hackenshaw Police HQ, Sheffield); Kevin Dolan, of Amec (laboratory and medical centre, Conoco, Humber Refinery).



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RACING: LEADING OWNER BELIEVES BHB IS WEAKENED BY LIMITATIONS OF THOSE AT THE HELM

Savill raises questions of leadership

By RICHARD EVANS, RACING CORRESPONDENT

AN OUTSPOKEN attack on the lack of strong leadership within racing coincided yesterday with the publication of the British Horseracing Board's (BHB) pre-budget submission for a £77 million cut in betting duty.

On a day when Lord Wakeham and Tristram Ricketts, the chairman and chief executive respectively of the BHB, would have preferred a display of unity to support the case for betting duty to be reduced from 6.75 per cent to 5 per cent, they found themselves on the receiving end of vehement criticism from Peter Savill, a leading racehorse owner and recently elected member of the Racehorse Owners' Association (ROA) council.

Savill has been a thorn in the side of the racing establishment recently. While the BHB wants a 1 per cent betting duty cut (worth £44 million) to facilitate a 1 per cent cut in deductions paid by betting shop punters with the remaining 0.75 per cent (£33 million) going to racing, Savill has campaigned for the BHB to concentrate its efforts on swelling Britain's internationally low levels of prize-money. Yesterday he turned his fire on the people running racing — and did not mince his words.

Lord Wakeham does not have the time, experience, commercial background or sufficient in-depth knowledge of racing to give the sport the strong leadership it requires, he said. "I am probably criticising Tristram Ricketts more than I am Wakeham because the person who should be leading the industry is the chief executive, in the same

way a managing director runs a company. But because he isn't, people think Wakeham is the leader of the industry.

"The racing industry is basically a business but if you look around at the people in the positions of authority, it is hard to find many, any, who are truly commercial people with a strong background in business or industry.

"From the little experience I have had of being exposed to the administration of racing, I cannot see there is strong leadership coming from the people in power. I don't see it at all in terms of where the

divisions within racing and he contrasted events here with those across the Channel. "Racing needs strong leadership and in France, Jean-Luc Lagardere, who was an incredibly successful industrialist, is putting French racing on a firm financial footing and making sure the industry goes forward in an internationally competitive environment. I don't see we have got the structure or the personalities in place yet to be able to be competitive with other countries who are moving their industries forward."

The degree of anger created within BHB circles by Savill's remarks can be gauged from the response yesterday by Sir Paul Fox, chairman of the Racecourse Association and a BHB member. "Someone who lives in the Cayman Islands is not exactly the sort of chap who will bring racing's cause with the Chancellor. He has his residence outside this country and, unlike the rest of us, doesn't pay tax here. John Wakeham served in the same Cabinet as Kenneth Clarke and if racing stands any chance of getting a cut in betting duty, and it has a solid case, John Wakeham is the man to do it."

The BHB's cogently argued submission highlights the impact of the lottery on betting turnover, levy yields and prize-money levels; the low percentage of betting turnover returned to British racing compared with other countries; the "disturbing" decline in investment in two-year-olds and the exodus of high-quality bloodstock abroad, including the last five Derby winners to Japan, for breeding.

Savill blamed the lack of strong leadership for the

fact that the industry is not

able to attract the investment

needed to improve the quality

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FOOTBALL: OPENING MATCH AGAINST DOUBLE-WINNERS MARKS TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF ARRIVAL AMONG GAME'S ELITE

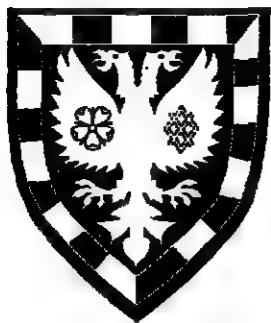
Wimbledon's gang still crazy after all these years

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

It was 1986, and Wimbledon had arrived: from top of the non-League pyramid to the top division of the Football League, in only nine seasons. A bunch of grizzled desperadoes, snarling and sneering, kicking and rushing, who had somehow bulldozed their way through the professional ranks.

Prepare to meet thy doom, crowed the critics. The first division was no place for such a crazy gang, the Crazy Gang, of young upstarts from a rough end of the posh part of southwest London. Just look at Plough Lane, their ramshackle apology for a stadium. They just don't belong among us; they just won't do.

It is 1996, and Wimbledon are still there. Privileged members of the FA Carling Premiership, by right, and still persistently bloodying the



noses of the so-called elite. Many of those who complained so bitterly, and patronisingly, have long since passed them by on their plunge down the League.

On Saturday, appropriately against Manchester United, the double-winners, Wimbledon mark their tenth anniversary of life among the big boys. They continue to fight for scraps at the rich man's table, relying on a fruitful youth policy or shrewd market investments, but, perhaps, have at last earned the grudging respect of their peers.

Plough Lane was abandoned to the weeds in 1991 as Wimbledon hopped across town to share Selhurst Park. The club has little financial clout, few apparent friends, and has to sell to survive because of consistently low attendances. Yet survive it does, with careful husbandry and a cussedness honed in adversity.

"What Wimbledon have



Gould and Beasant are locked in jubilant embrace after Wimbledon's finest moment, the stunning 1988 FA Cup final victory over Liverpool. Photograph: Chris Smith

TEN YEARS IN THE TOP FLIGHT

Year	League	League Cup	FA Cup
1986-87	2nd	2nd round	6th round
1987-88	7th	4th round	Winners
1988-89	12th	4th round	5th round
1989-90	9th	4th round	3rd round
1990-91	7th	2nd round	4th round
1991-92	10th	2nd round	3rd round
1992-93	12th	3rd round	5th round
1993-94	9th	4th round	5th round
1994-95	8th	3rd round	5th round
1995-96	14th	2nd round	5th round

of the game, a camera crew had captured the squad eating in a hotel restaurant amid fancy streamers, flashing lights and blaring music. It was all innocent, yet perpetuated the bel-mingling Wimbledon image. "All we were doing was having our evening meal," Beasant recalled, "as

the hotel got ready for a party that night. Nothing was going on but people probably saw it on TV and thought: 'No wonder they lost the game.' I suppose it kind of summed Wimbledon up."

time in their history. "It was a lovely feeling," Beasant said. "We knew it wouldn't last, we weren't stupid, but it was nice while it did."

Wimbledon finished sixth that season and have subsequently claimed five other top-flight placings. If a table were drawn up of all the top-flight results since their arrival, they would be sixth and, under Bobby Gould, Beasant's successor, they won the FA Cup a year later, beating Liverpool 1-0 in the final. "It was very much them and us in the early days," Beasant said, "but we were determined to show them."

"Many of us grew up together and we stuck together, a bit like the Three Musketeers. It

was all for one and one for all. We were good enough, we were a premier club and we proved it. There was a time for working, a time for playing, and perhaps they sometimes overlapped, but Dave [Beasant] would always let us know when."

Wimbledon have striven hard to clean up their act. Sam Hamman, the Lebanese-born owner, and Joe Kinnear, the present manager, are still prone to outbursts verging on paranoia. "Vinnie Jones, the tattooed warrior, still walks a disciplinary tightrope."

Yet the long ball has long gone, now only resorted to if a more thoughtful approach proves unproductive. "We're a bit more cultured now, not so

wild, but the atmosphere is as good as it's ever been," Dean Holdsworth, the striker, said.

Buying small and selling big — Dennis Wise, Keith Curle, John Scales, Terry Phelan and Warren Barton are their most notable exports — remains the club philosophy. Only this summer did Wimbledon venture past the seven-figure barrier, with the signing of Ben Thatcher, from Millwall, for £1.84 million.

"Everyone that comes here is taking a step up and has a hunger to become a better player," Kinnear said. "There is not one of them who does not appreciate the hardships of life."

Nurturing the youngsters is vital, too. Wimbledon have reached the semi-finals of the FA Youth Cup three times in the past five years. It is a struggle, though, as the gulf widens between the haves and have nots.

Kinnear made a talent-spotting trek to Russia and Scandinavia during the summer but

'It is something everyone can relate to, the little man taking on the big guy'

was rejected at every turn. He said: "When I queried the high prices, I was told: 'But you are from England. You pay £15 million for players. Don't insult us with your low offers.' I'd love to see what an open chequebook looks like."

Lawrie Sanchez, scorer of the winning goal in the FA Cup Final, temporarily managed Sligo Rovers, in Ireland. He has since returned to Wimbledon as reserve team coach, wondering why he ever left the Gang. "It's only when you go away that you realise how much Wimbledon are revered," he said. "They have something everyone can relate to, the little man taking on and beating the big guy."

If it all went wrong, though, if they were relegated, would the self-assurance and defiance finally crumble? "If they didn't get back straight away, then they could find it tough," Beasant said. "But they will always survive. Wimbledon will never die."

Gascoigne doubtful for Moldavia match

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

THE chances of Paul Gascoigne playing in the first England match under Glenn Hoddle are fading fast. The Rangers midfielder, 29, has an Achilles injury and is yet to have any match practice this season.

His return to action in the Bell's Scottish League premier division now looks likely to be on August 24, when Rangers meet Dundee United at Ibrox — 48 hours after the new coach names his squad for the opening match of England's World Cup qualifying campaign, in Moldavia on September 1.

Gascoigne will not feature in the Rangers party for tomorrow night's Coca-Cola Cup second-round tie against Clydebank at Firhill, and his prospects of being involved at Dunfermline this Saturday are rated as slim.

"The injury is an awkward one," Walter Smith, the Rangers manager, said. "We are taking him slowly through training so there is no recurrence. He's tough and go for Saturday, so it may be he could have a reserve outing and then be ready for the Dundee United match."

Meanwhile, Rangers should hear tomorrow from Uefa, the game's governing body in Europe. If their European Cup second leg tie with Alania Vladikavkaz is to be switched to Moscow, Uefa are looking into the possibility because of the war in Chechnya, close to Vladikavkaz, and have promised the Glasgow club a decision in the next 48 hours.

Scottish Television (STV) is to screen highlights of the match in Russia, which Rangers will start with a 3-1 aggregate lead. Live coverage of the first match at Ibrox last week attracted about 711,000 viewers, according to STV's early audience figures.

Rangers have now dropped their interest in Alessandro Orlando, the Italy defender, who is staying with Udinese. Southampton have been told by a transfer tribunal to pay £500,000 for Graham Potter, the Stoke City winger, in a pay-as-you-play deal.

Lee Glover, 26, the Port Vale striker formerly with Nottingham Forest, will become Rotherham United's record signing when he joins them for £150,000 tomorrow.

Cantona given World Cup hope

By PETER BALL

ROY KEANE and Eric Cantona, of Manchester United, both had reason to contemplate relaunching their international careers yesterday after well-documented disciplinary problems. Having failed to join Ireland's team for a series of matches in the summer, Keane was included in Mick McCarthy's initial squad of 30 for the World Cup qualifying match in Liechtenstein on August 31.

Cantona, whose controversial omission from France's squad for the European championship finals appeared to spell the end of his international career, may also be able to look forward to a recall. Aimé Jacquet, the France manager, said yesterday that he had not shut the door on Cantona or David Ginola, of Newcastle United.

"I am not an idiot or mad," Jacquet told *L'Equipe*, the French sports paper. "I am there to create the best team possible. I know them and I know how to use them."

Jacquet has never lost a game — except on penalties — in his three years as manager of France, and he was reluctant to bring Cantona back into the team as the side thrived in his absence during

his ban for his assault on a Crystal Palace supporter. France's lack of firepower — and, he said, the Gallic wit and invention for which Cantona is famous — in Euro 96, however, finally proved costly, and Cantona would seem the obvious solution.

The Manchester United captain may have to wait a little longer for his return, however. "Obviously there will be changes, but nothing too quick," Jacquet said. Keane, meanwhile, is back in the Irish fold. "I spoke to him for an hour on Saturday, he accepted that he was wrong and he apologised, and that's good enough for me," McCarthy said last night.

"Now he just wants to get on and play football, for United and for Ireland."

McCarthy announced an enlarged squad yesterday because he wants to keep the young players who had emerged in the summer involved, while recalling the established players who missed the games in June, and so it offers little clue to his plans. The only unexpected name in the 30 yesterday was that of Jon Goodman, the Wimbledon striker, whose eligibility has not yet been finally established.

Howard Wilkinson's expressed desire to bring two



Keane: back in fold



Cantona: possible recall

Warnings over threat of strike by players

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

STUART DAWE, a director of Exeter City, has warned that a strike by players in the three divisions of the Nationwide League could signal the demise of some clubs. With the Football League and the Professional Footballers' Association (PFA) still appearing to be poles apart in their dispute over the League's level of payment to the PFA from its television revenue, Dawe voiced considerable concerns about the possible walk-out.

"It's all very well talking about the PFA getting more money to redistribute, but what about if the poorer clubs are forced to the wall?" he said. John Dennis, the chairman of Barnsley, said: "If we folded, there would be no club to pay the players' wages. It is very sad. I am surprised and disappointed the two parties have reached this stage."

The PFA's management committee has voted in favour of balloting its members, but the League responded by threatening legal action to prevent any such move. Andy Williamson, the League's assistant secretary, said: "You can only strike if it affects the terms of employment of

individuals and, clearly, this dispute does not."

Brighton and Hove Albion's future could lie in the hands of the Football Association. The FA is to try to broker a peace agreement between the third division club and its local authorities. Civic leaders from Hove and Brighton councils will travel to Lancaster Gate today, to discuss their ideas to help to save the ailing club. Representatives of the club have been invited to give their version of events at a later date.

THE TIMES

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Shearer raises question of value for money

I felt like Alice, a not uncommon occurrence. "Why, his time is worth a thousand pounds a minute." "Why, the smoke alone is worth a thousand pounds a puff." "I shall dream about a thousand pounds tonight. I know I shall," Alice thought.

Except, in my case, the sum I am dreaming about is £15 million. One footballer went from one club to another club for a sum of, yes, £15 million and at once the sum of money clogged up the nation's thoughts and dreams.

It is impossible to mention Alan Shearer, or Newcastle United, or football, or sport, or just about anything else from Mother Teresa to the Tube strike without mentioning £15 million.

On Sunday morning, Shearer was a coup, a snip, a man worth every penny of, er, £15 million. By Sunday teatime, he was a waste of money, a rash investment, a tactical disaster, a man absurdly overvalued at, well, £15 million. I was at the Charity Shield to write about the "£15 million man". I did so and, far from rising above the prevailing mania, I mentioned the sum three times in 900

words and at least two or three more times by implication.

Why is it that such a sum is able to dominate the national consciousness? Well, it is rather a lot of money, to be sure, and it would certainly help me out with the mortgage, but, on the other hand, it's not that much. The top three stories on the front page of *The Times* business section yesterday contained the following figures, all in pounds: 3.2 billion, 700 million and 68.1 million. Why is it that Shearer's measly 15 million quid commands the national attention, rather than these dizzying sums?

Money in sport is always an attention-grabber, provoking, at the same time, admiration, envy and disgust. This is true even in the United States, where the relationship between money and sport is more straightforward. Americans reacted with more disquiet than delight to the news that Shaquille O'Neal, a tall man who plays basketball, has moved to a new team for the sum of \$120 million. The sad news for Shearer is that O'Neal gets to keep all of this — or, at least, to share it with the tax-payer.

This is not a transfer fee but his

SIMON BARNES



Midweek View

salary over the next seven years. Business is about business, so money is a natural area of concern; sport is about something else, about an escape from the sordid, from the common run of people and events. Business is our daily bread: sport is our escape. Business is waking; sport is our dreamtime.

Athletes fly through the air, escaping the ties of earth; they rise to glory and bring us an unending series of utterly ephemeral joys. Everything

about sport is an escape from the clogging earth of real life, from responsibility. From reality.

Yet, again and again, sport turns, with appalling and rather dilettantish fascination, to money. In Formula One, the eternal game of musical cars hops up again — which driver moves to which team for how much? Any advance on Michael Schumacher's salary of £20 million a season?

Golf, with engaging directness, does not have batting averages, rankings or table of goalscorers: it has a money-list. Open the tennis handbook and the first thing that strikes you is the figure, offered for every player on the tour, of career earnings. Jeremy Bates got more than \$1 million in his time, a sum that should stop a few Jeremy jokes in their tracks.

Do you find it offensive or absurd, that Bates made a million? If so, how do you react to the news, again gleaned from yesterday's business pages, that a chap called Richard Goeltz, a fellow who has given me rather less pleasure and certainly fewer laughs than Bates, has left his job at NatWest, where he earned £362,000 last year, for a new post at

American Express for a "considerably higher" reward?

But, no, the vast sums earned by middle-aged men in suits wash over us, while the money paid to and for young people in shorts or tennis skirts or flame-proof shoes sticks in the mind as something absurd, something almost contradictory.

Similarly, we do not yearn for financial details about Pavarotti in the rain, or about Oasis in the deserts of Hertfordshire — but the amount of money to be earned by the new manager of Arsenal is a pressing concern.

All this shows, once again, is the odd place that sport plays in national — and, for that matter, international — life. Sport is nothing but children's games played by grown-ups and delight in sport brings out the child in ourselves. We cannot accommodate money and childhood in the same thought and so we worry away at the paradox as if it were a wobbly tooth. In our hearts, we still believe that "professional sport" is an oxymoron. In our hearts, we believe that all sports should be amateur — amateur meaning, by derivation, nothing less than love.

'By teatime, he was a rash investment'

'On Sunday morning, he was a coup'

GOLF: SWEDISH FAMILY BUSINESS HAS EYE ON REAPING RICH DIVIDEND AT BRITISH OPEN

Sorenstam sisters swing into action

Patricia Davies looks at the two-pronged challenge to the elite of the women's game

Tom and Gunilla Sorenstam are no great shakes as golfers, but they are people with more than their fair share of influence on the world's fairways all the same. They are the parents of Annika and Charlotta, a pair of Swedish siblings destined to be as exalted in their sport as England's Charlton brothers were in theirs, and who are competing in the Weetabix Women's British Open at Woburn this week.

Annika, at 25 the elder by two years, possesses a golfing curriculum vitae that is already without parallel. In that she has several "firsts" to her name. One of the most notable was that, in 1995, she became the first player, man or woman, to win both the United States and European money-lists in the same season.

She is also the first European to defend the US Women's Open Championship successfully, with the result that her 1996 season thus far has been only marginally less remarkable than her *annus mirabilis* last year, when she won three tournaments on the US tour, two in Europe and one in Australia.

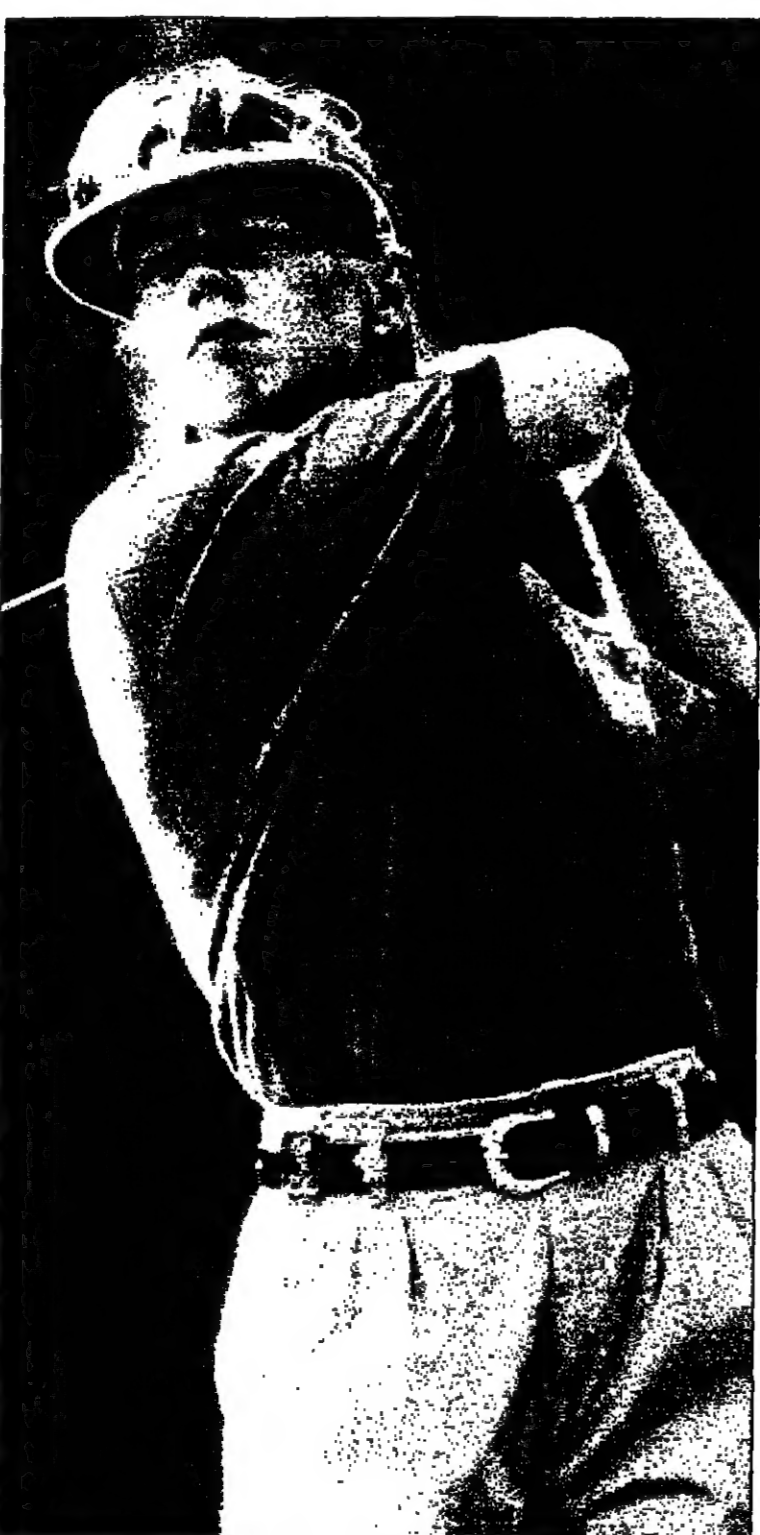
It is the kind of act that is hard enough for Annika to follow — alarmingly, for her peers, she is now concentrating on becoming a better player, hitting more fairways, more greens in regulation and fewer puts — but what about Charlotta?

The younger Sorenstam has yet to win as a professional, but she gave notice that her talent will not go unfilled when she tied for second place in the McDonald's WPGA Championship at Glenageary last week. She loved being in contention and is no less ambitious than her sister. "I want to be No 1 in the world," she said, in a matter-of-fact manner. "I know I have the capacity. It's just a question of when and how I do it."

"You have to believe in yourself, otherwise you don't go anywhere. I keep hearing people telling me I'm good and I feel it a bit myself. I proved last week that I can beat some of the best players in the world."

Annika won her first tournament, the Australian Open, at the end of 1994 and the floodgates opened in 1995, just after she announced her engagement. She is phenomenally consistent and is as mentally adept as anyone, plotting her way carefully round difficult courses — "Annika has one of the sharpest minds in golf," Pia Nilsson, Swedish golf's head of coaching, said.

However, Charlotta is the more immediately impressive golfer to look at because she is, and always has been, a formidable striker of the ball. "I hit the ball a little further than normal," Charlotta smiled, adding, "I



Annika Sorenstam, left, is providing a perfect example for her sister, Charlotta, to follow as she establishes herself among the professionals



used to practise with Per-Ulrik Johansson and he hit it two irons further than I did and I'm two irons shorter than Laura Davies." Which means the young Swede is no slouch in the slopping states.

Like her sister, Charlotta won the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) individual college championship when she was at university in Texas, but, unlike Annika — who was at the University of Arizona and now lives in California with David Esch, her fiancé — she came home after 9½ months,

tired of being away and none too enamoured of a tyrannical coach.

She also had the misfortune of suffering a dyslexic disqualification in her first college tournament, having signed for a wrong score. "I discovered I was dyslexic my first day at school, when I had to read out loud and they all started laughing," Charlotta said. "Both my parents have it, but it gets better with age. I still have to check my scorecard a lot of times."

However, she is going to venture to the United States again and will be

trying to qualify for the tour there later this year, accompanied by Robert Claesson, her fiancé and caddy. If she is successful, there will be lots of sister questions, much though both Sorenstams obviously dislike them.

Comparisons are invidious, unfair and inevitable — and they will be made. Nilsson, who has worked with both women for many years, they also share the same coach, Henri Reis, recognises the fact and guards against slipping into bad habits himself. "They are two unique human

beings playing golf and something I try very hard to do is to listen to each one and look at them as individuals and not make comparisons.

"Although they have the same background and upbringing, they play and work in very different ways, but they are both successful, have high ambitions and so much talent — and are so much fun to work with. They work at such a high level, they inspire me to try and reach another level as a coach." In European terms, it is a simple case of one Sorenstam good, two Sorenstams better.

RADIO CHOICE

But the corn was ripe

A Corny Concerto. Radio 3, 10.45pm.

Early on in this tribute to Carl Stalling, who wrote the music for more than 1,200 Warner Brothers cartoons, someone brackets him with Stravinsky and Prokofiev. I almost snorted in disbelief. Then, they started to play snippets from some of his scores, and I felt ashamed. I still think, however, that whoever it is in the programme who says that Stalling was one of the major 20th century composers of any genre, went over the top. He was certainly a great innovator. He created the drunken trombone, the *glissando* for someone failing, the xylophone for someone blinking. He borrowed brilliantly from Mozart and Wagner. His score for *The Rabbit of Seville* was Rossini in *Excalibur*.

Whippets and Marsupials. Radio 4, 9.45am.

This is the final instalment of audio-letter exchanges between Andy from County Durham and Simon from Adelaide who, with their families, did a home swap. The list of pros and cons which the two men draw up at the end of the experiment may not be of much value to sociologists who are interested in community affairs. But, like everything else in these four programmes, they uncover some hard truths about ourselves, the existence of which we had either not suspected or preferred not to acknowledge. I was wondering when this series would get round to explaining what the title means. Happily, we get the answer this morning.

Peter Daville

RADIO 1

FM Stereo 8.30am Chris Evans 9.00 Kevin Greening 11.30 Radio 1 Roadshow, live from Tones Abbey Meadows in Torquay 12.30pm Lisa Foxton 00 Dave Pearce 7.00 Evening Session 9.00 Festival Lounge, with Johnny Vaughan 10.00 Mark Radcliffe 12.00 Claire Sargeant 4.00 Clive Warren

RADIO 2

FM Stereo 6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 1.30pm Judi Smit 3.00 Ed Sheeran 5.05pm John Dunn 7.00 Ralph McTell with Folk on 2 8.00 Upstream with Belterly (6/6) 8.30 Folk in the Footlights (3/5) 9.00 Her Majesty's Wives (4/5) 9.30 Nigel Ogden 10.30 The Jamesons 12.00am Sue McGarry 3.00 Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE

6.00am Morning Reports, incl. 6.45 Wake Up to Money 6.00 Breakfast Programme 8.35 The Magsays, with Dana Medli, and 10.35 News from Europe 12.00 Midday with Mar, incl. 12.35pm Moneycheck 2.05pm Ruscoc on Fire, incl. 3.05 Sports Return 4.00 Nationwide, incl. at 5.45 Entertainment News 7.00 News Extra, incl. at 7.20 Sports Bulletin 7.28 Grand Prix Athletics Coverage of the best of the action from tonight's meeting in Zurich 10.05 News Talk, with Jeremy Vine 10.35 Radio 5 Live at the Fringe, with Janice Forsyth 11.00 Night Extra 12.05am After Hours 1.00-5.00 Up All Night — The Race for the White House

TALK RADIO

8.30am Paul Ross 10.00 Scott Chisholm 1.00pm Anna Raine 3.00 Tommy Boyd 5.00 Pete Dinkler 7.00 Sports Zone 10.00 James White 1.00am Ian Collins

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, with Penny Gore. Includes Debussy's *Cathedral* (Boccherini's Symphony No 17 in A, G511); Grieg (Jesus Christ is risen, Four Psalms, Op 74); Bach (Trio Sonata in C minor, BWV 1020); Arnold (Four Scottish Dances); Smetana (Souvenirs de Bohème in Form de Polkas, Op 12). 9.00 Morning Collection with Paul Gambaccini. Includes Bach (Concerto in C minor, BWV 1060); Five Little Preludes, BWV 224-228; Pergolesi (Stabat Mater). 10.00 Musical Encounters. Includes Gershwin, art Ma (3 Preludes); Vaughan Williams (3 Vocalises); Vivaldi (Harp Concerto) 10.15 Froms Artist of the Week: Judith Howarth. Arrangements: 10.30 Brahms (Symphony No 2 in D) 11.15 Byrd (Ave verum corpus), Symonowicz (Songs of the Intimated Muse); Chopin (Fantasie-Improvisation in C sharp minor, Op 66). 12.00 Composer of the Week: Beethoven. 1.00 Manchester Summer Recitals. Introduced by Rodney Stott, Steven Osborne, piano Schumann (Papillons, Op 2); Liszt (Hymne de l'enfant à son reveil; Funerailles; Benediction de Dieu dans la solitude; Harmonies poétiques et religieuses) (5/10). 2.00 Midweek Choice. Presented by Sandy Burnett. Includes Reubke (Sonata on the 94th Psalm, except); Lake (Violin Sonata in G); Holmboe (Symphony No 1). 3.55am Shipping Forecast (LW only) 6.00 News Briefing incl. Weather 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today Incl 7.25, 8.25 Sport 7.45 Thought for the Day 8.40 The Changing Forest (3/5) 8.55 Weather 9.00 News 9.05 In the Psychiatrist's Chair. Professor Anthony Clare Talks to Uri Geller (r) 9.45 Whippets and Marsupials. See Choice. 10.00 The Street (F4). Eastwood Drive, High Woods, Colchester, Essex (3/6) 10.15 On This Day (LW) 10.30 Woman's Hour 11.30 Gardeners' Question Time, with Eric Robson (r) 12.00 News: You and Yours, with Lesley Riddoch 12.25pm No Commitments. A comedy-drama series about the lives of three sisters, written by Simon Brett (4/8) 12.55 Weather 1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clarke 1.40 The Archers (r) 1.55 Shipping Forecast 2.00 News: Forest Tales, by Colin Heyn Evans, in the mysterious Forest of Lussac, Ben travellers fleeing plague and war tell tales to dispel the night shadows (2/3) 2.45 From Their Own Correspondent (2/6) (r) 3.00 News: The Afternoon Shift 4.00 News: 4.05 Kaleidoscope, Paul Gambaccini listens to a complete cycle of Bach: minnow songs on record 4.45 Short Story: Tom Elton's Shaggy Dog by Kurt Vonnegut

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5.55am Shipping Forecast (LW only) 6.00 News Briefing incl. Weather 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today Incl 7.25, 8.25 Sport 7.45 Thought for the Day 8.40 The Changing Forest (3/5) 8.55 Weather 9.00 News 9.05 In the Psychiatrist's Chair. Professor Anthony Clare Talks to Uri Geller (r) 9.45 Whippets and Marsupials. See Choice. 10.00 The Street (F4). Eastwood Drive, High Woods, Colchester, Essex (3/6) 10.15 On This Day (LW) 10.30 Woman's Hour 11.30 Gardeners' Question Time, with Eric Robson (r) 12.00 News: You and Yours, with Lesley Riddoch 12.25pm No Commitments. A comedy-drama series about the lives of three sisters, written by Simon Brett (4/8) 12.55 Weather 1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clarke 1.40 The Archers (r) 1.55 Shipping Forecast 2.00 News: Forest Tales, by Colin Heyn Evans, in the mysterious Forest of Lussac, Ben travellers fleeing plague and war tell tales to dispel the night shadows (2/3) 2.45 From Their Own Correspondent (2/6) (r) 3.00 News: The Afternoon Shift 4.00 News: 4.05 Kaleidoscope, Paul Gambaccini listens to a complete cycle of Bach: minnow songs on record 4.45 Short Story: Tom Elton's Shaggy Dog by Kurt Vonnegut

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RACING 39

Savill launches fierce attack on BHB leadership

SPORT

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 14 1996

GOLF 42

Sorenstam sisters challenge women's elite



Yorkshire suffer a second time as Roses rivals reach NatWest Trophy final

Lancashire confirm their mastery

By ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

OLD TRAFFORD (Lancashire won toss): Lancashire beat Yorkshire by 19 runs

MICHAEL BEVAN did everything in his power to carry Yorkshire into the NatWest Trophy final before departing for Brisbane last night. He took wickets with his wrist spin and he literally hit the cover off the ball in making 85 at the heart of their valiant pursuit of 294. It was not enough.

Bevan flew home grim-faced, bound for the Australia training camp, as Lancashire, supreme at this form of the game, celebrated a cup-semi-final double over their neighbours. Even a whirlwind 12 off 33 balls by Darren Gough did not seriously threaten Lancashire's progress to a final against Essex on September 7.

Only those in and around the Yorkshire dressing-room will know the anguish of this defeat. They are a team on the brink of a breakthrough, yet every time they attempt the final step it is Lancashire, of all clubs, who bring them down. This defeat yesterday did not have quite the drama of the one-wicket, last-ball affair in the Benson and

Hedges Cup, but it will have hurt just as much.

Victory gives Lancashire the chance to emulate their unique achievement of winning both Lord's finals in 1990. It was a result gained by their familiar qualities — batting with depth, bowling with discipline and doing everything with the conviction of experience, which is precisely what Yorkshire lack.

There was a desperation to Yorkshire's cricket, graphic evidence of the anxiety of the new generation to set something tangible against the endlessly recited achievements of their elders. It manifested itself in four missed catches, rough-edged out-crick and, occasionally, unintelligent bowling.

There was plenty of anxiety in the near-capacity crowd, too. To many who were here, losing a Roses semi-final equated to the sense of grief experienced at the other Old Trafford if United lose to City.

Peter Marron, the groundsman who consistently produces some of the best pitches in the country, had to wait until early darkness had lifted to unveil a surface that had something for the seamers

early on and enough bounce and turn to encourage the employment of two spinners by each side. It was, as the scores suggest, the perfect one-day pitch.

Not that one would have known it from the initial 20 overs, as Lancashire subsided to 52 for three and Michael Atherton played an innings of nightmares. Dropped twice at slip by Byas, when one and two, Atherton faced 60 balls for his 18 before edging a cut against Stemp. Perhaps it was a case of post-Test fatigue. Whatever, once Fairbrother had compounded the problem by slogging his second ball to deep mid-wicket, Lancashire were in a mess.

Stemp was turning the ball appreciably and would now have benefited from bowling round the wicket to the two right-handers, but he persisted with the more negative line, from which Graham Lloyd reverse-swept him with precision, violence and frequency. As soon as he did go round the wicket, Lloyd sliced a drive to deep cover, where McGrath dropped the chance.

It was to prove an expensive miss, perhaps a decisive one, for with John Crawley elegantly settled at the other end, the innings was fully revived before lunch. Lloyd, whose father David, the England coach, was watching on television at home, needed only 90 balls for his savage 81, and although he and Crawley were out in rapid succession, their partnership of 145 from 27 overs turned the game.

The momentum was maintained by Watkinson, with 35 from 28 balls, and Hogg, who persistently stepped away to leg to smear the ball through the off side. He had employed a similar style to still greater effect during his match-winning innings in the earlier semi-final summit clash by now, Yorkshire were leaving a repeat. Gough's three wickets in the last over saved them only from a target of 300.

Neither Moxon nor Vaughan accelerated out of second gear as the reply began jerkily. Bevan arrived in the fourth over and soon necessitated an unusual ball-change when the casing came away from the core. His stand with Byas, however, was re-stitching the innings until the captain tamely pulled Watkinson to mid-wicket. McGrath added 80 to Bevan, but when three wickets fell from nine balls, even Gough's abstinence brought no more than consolation.



Butcher, of Surrey, fails to make his ground and is run out for 27 by Law at the Oval. Photograph: Clive Mason/Allsport

Law leaves Essex with final salute

By SIMON WILDE

THE OVAL (Essex won toss): Essex beat Surrey by four wickets

STUART LAW gave Essex the farewell present they were desperately hoping for before flying to Australia last night by playing the decisive innings in their NatWest Trophy semi-final. Law was unable to add to his tally of 11 centuries this season but a blistering 53 from 44 balls set them on their way to a challenging target of 276 and a first 60-overs final for 11 years.

Law took a heavy toll of some loose Surrey bowling during a partnership of 96 in

17 overs with Gooch, who secured for himself an eighth cup final appearance with Essex by playing a vital anchor. He spent 38 overs scoring 50, but by then only 101 runs were needed from the last 22 overs and, although the loss of two further wickets appeared to throw the game open, sensible batting from Irani and Rollins saw Essex home with 20 balls to spare.

Together they scored the final 65 in 13 overs, Irani, who hit the winning runs, finishing unbeaten on 52 from 61 balls. The result killed mounting optimism at the Oval that Surrey might end 14 years without a trophy by performing a unique treble of champ-

ionship, NatWest Trophy and Sunday league. They stand at the head of both leagues, had won 15 of their previous 18 county matches and had not lost at the Oval since May 29.

But, in humid conditions in which the ball swung all day, they forfeited their right to a final place by bowling poorly. The Essex innings was littered with wides and no-balls — Lewis being the most culpable — and not all of these could be put down to extravagant movement. Surrey conceded an astonishing 47 extras.

Few of these could be laid at the door of Stewart, their captain and wicketkeeper, despite the fact that he spent the entire day on the field. Scooting suggestions that he might be tired after completing a Test match in which he scored a sublime 170, he batted throughout Surrey's total of 275 for five for an unbeaten 125 and gave only one chance.

As Gooch attempted to do, he set himself to bat through the innings in the knowledge that if he did so his side would be in with a shout. But Essex's seamers bowled commendably, although they did have the significant advantage of winning the toss and bowling when the ball did most.

The match was probably won in the first hour, in which Surrey avoided losing a wicket

with Grayson at the death, but he took the brunt of some fierce hitting from Lewis, who entered with six overs left and struck 45 from 29 balls with three sixes and two fours. This was the only period of the innings that Surrey were on the rampage but it gave their total a much-needed fillip.

Essex lost an early wicket, Grayson being leg-before to Bicknell which only sent Gooch further into his shell. After ten overs, he had spent 27 balls scoring five.

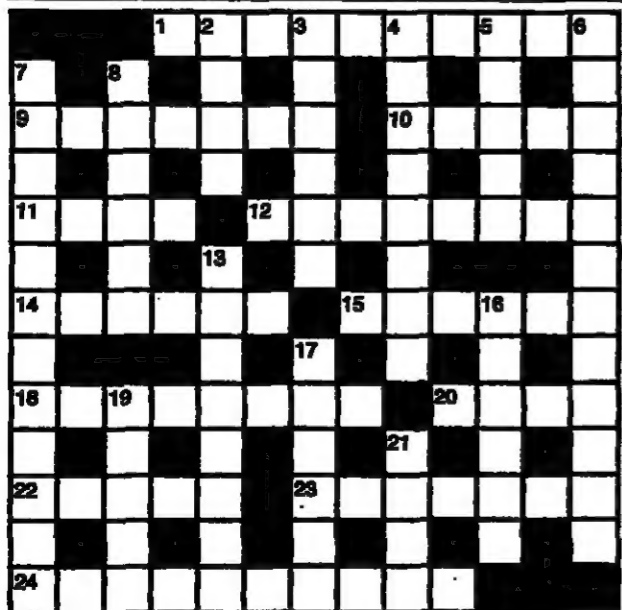
By then Hussain had also fallen, unluckily lashing a wide ball into the hands on gully, but Lewis should have spent less time in absurdly grandiose celebrations and more dwelling on the quality of the ball. It was pitched short and wide. Plenty more were to follow and Essex's later batsmen made no such mistakes.

Essex boldly persevered

OLD TRAFFORD SCOREBOARD

LANCASHIRE	YORKSHIRE
J E R Galt run out.....19	M D Moxon bow b Yates.....12
M A Atherton c Blakey b Stemp.....18	M P Vaughan c Galt b Martin.....14
J P Crawley c McGrath b Bevan.....62	D Byas c Galt b Watkinson.....39
N H Fairbrother c McGrath b Stemp.....0	M G Bevan c Chappell b Austen.....35
G D Lloyd c Silverwood b Bevan.....81	A McGrath b Austen.....34
M Watkinson c Gough b Harley.....35	C White c Yates b Austen.....4
W K Hogg c McGrath b Gough.....35	T R J Blakey c Lloyd b Martin.....33
I D Austin c Byas b Gough.....10	G Gough c Chappell b Martin.....42
G Chappell not out.....0	P J Harley not out.....1
G Yates b Gough.....33	C E W Silverwood not out.....10
Extras (b 2, lb 15, w 10, nb 6).....33	Extras (b 4, w 4, nb 2).....10
Total (8 wickets, 60 overs).....294	Total (8 wickets, 60 overs).....276
R D Stemp did not bat	R D Stemp did not bat
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-26, 2-52, 3-52, 4-197, 5-209, 6-252, 7-259, 8-293, 9-293.	FALL OF WICKETS: 1-28, 2-34, 3-110, 4-190, 5-197, 6-197, 7-272, 8-274.
BOWLING: Gough 12-3-47-3, Silverwood 10-0-23-0, White 10-0-28-0, Harley 10-0-22-1, Stemp 12-1-55-2, Bevan 10-1-47-2.	BOWLING: Martin 12-3-53-3, Austin 12-5-0-45-1, Yates 12-0-45-1, Chappell 12-5-0-39-0, Watkinson 12-1-56-1, Man of the match: I D Austin.
Umpires: N T Plevins and R Julian.	

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 860

- ACROSS
- 1 Squamish; very fussy (10)
 - 9 Inexpert; one playing for pleasure (7)
 - 10 Capital of Bulgaria (5)
 - 11 Prince Charlie's escape island (4)
 - 12 Hand pounding battle (8)
 - 13 Typical; a perpendicular (6)
 - 15 Smear (with paint) (6)
 - 18 Aggressive (in a cause) (8)
 - 20 Puzzle; decisive point (4)
 - 22 Incendiary (5)
 - 23 Knot cut by Alexander (7)
 - 24 Ineffective over distance (5-5)
- DOWN
- 2 Again from start (4)
 - 3 Piece of cotton (6)
 - 4 Mess up (leg hair) (8)
 - 5 Animal's edible organs (5)
 - 6 Fighting imaginary opponent (6-6)
 - 7 Methods, esp. of raising revenue (4,3,5)
 - 8 Barrister (6)
 - 13 Severe disciplinarian (8)
 - 14 Slither (6)
 - 17 Puzzle; German code-machine (6)
 - 19 Rope with running noose (5)
 - 21 Pharmaceutical (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 859
ACROSS: 1 Propose 5 Glad 8 Glow 9 Hiatus 10 Mutineer
12 Duel 13 Household 17 Piles 18 A bit much 20 Addict 21 Bikini
23 Grog 24 Re-enact
DOWN: 2 Roll up 3 Pew 4 Surge 5 Grand slam 6 Amused
7 Church 11 Isolating 14 Shanty 15 Glider 16 Scenic 19 Imbue
22 Ken

SOLUTION TO TIMES TWO CROSSWORD 855
In association with BRITISH MIDLAND

ACROSS: 1 Cafe 3 Eligible 8 Lazarus 10 Leash 11 Etymologist
13 Assassin 15 Bamboo 17 Centrifugal 20 Atlas 21 Boycott
22 Abridged 23 Clue
DOWN: 1 Cul-de-sac 2 Fuzzy 4 Lissom 5 Gallimaufry 6 Brain
tub 7 Echo 9 Reorganised 12 Roulette 14 Secular 16 Treble
18 Growl 19 Lama

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Wenger extends Arsenal options

By ROB HUGHES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

WAITING for Arsenal to name their new manager is like waiting outside the Vatican for the white smoke to rise.

The secret is being better kept by far than the long-rumoured departure of Bruce Rioch, but whispers persist that Arsenal will go continental and that either Johan Cruyff or the Frenchman, Arsene Wenger, is the "identified successor".

Yesterday, even Tony Adams, who has lifted more silverware than any Arsenal captain, claimed still to be in the dark. "You are all guessing," he insisted. "I am guessing... but, knowing the way Arsenal do things, I am sure they have a man lined up."

If the home options are ruled out, then Arsenal will go where they almost went 20 years ago when the late Denis Hill-Wood, father of the present chairman, Peter, parlayed with Miljan Miljanic, the Montenegrin coach then at Real Madrid. For one reason or another, Miljanic improved his contract in Madrid and Arsenal stayed faithful to the English habit of hiring from within.

Things have changed since then. Jozef Venglos, albeit for one traumatic season, broke the ground for foreign coaches at Aston Villa. Osvaldo Ardiles, half-English by foot-

ball education, has managed Swindon Town, Newcastle United, Tottenham Hotspur and West Bromwich Albion, and Rudi Gutli is about to colour Chelsea with his visions of the game.

If the contest is down to Cruyff or Wenger, there are intriguing machinations. Cruyff, dismissed by Barcelona in May, is available, though Feyenoord, not enamoured by their present coach, Arie Haan, are reportedly trying to repatriate the Dutchman. If Cruyff is ready to re-engage the traumas of management, his millionaire lifestyle would stretch Arsenal's purse and his demands of an autonomous hold on all playing matters — indeed, his determination to



Wenger: experience

run the whole club — would certainly stretch the designs of the Arsenal vice-chairman, David Dein, on rule from the boardroom.

Perhaps Dein, no longer the largest shareholder, would have sufficient respect for Cruyff's winning ways to tolerate that. Perhaps not — in which case, Wenger could be more amenable, if less immediately available.

Wenger is coaching Nagoya Grampus Eight in the J-League and recently told Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, that he was contracted to the Japanese until December. Hoddle, having served under Wenger at AS Monaco, would do everything he could to hold the position of technical director at the Football Association open until Wenger could take it.

The admiration for Wenger's honesty, intelligent grasp of the game, humanity and, as an economics graduate, football finances is shared by George Weah, the world footballer of the year. Weah followed Hoddle under Wenger's tutelage and two such recommendations might be irresistible. Certainly, Wenger has declared his intention to return from Japan to the mainstream of European football.

Allegedly, Cruyff supped with Dein while in London last weekend to watch his son,

Jordi, make his Manchester United debut in the Charity Shield defeat of Newcastle United at Wembley. The choice would be between a Frenchman whose charm comes easily and a Dutchman whose high intensity makes demands on everyone around him, so much so that enemies are often the price of glory.

Yet Arsenal give no co-operation to the speculation that they are looking outside this country. One of their former sons, Graham Rix, is assistant to Gutli at Chelsea and, according to Ken Bates, the Chelsea chairman, is management material. Terry Venables, despite beginning a new role at Portsmouth at almost the same hour that Arsenal dismissed Rioch, should never be ruled out of anything ambitious.

But are we overlooking somebody? I could not help noticing the fuss made of Johan Cruyff in the Royal Box at Wembley by Joe Kinnear. It is heresy to suggest another former Tottenham man crossing north London — I can imagine Sam Hammam, the Wimbledon chairman, blowing his top — and yet Kinnear is ambitious, he knows how to buy and sell, how to motivate... and, perhaps most important of all, how to pass on much of the credit for team-building and winning matches to those upstairs.

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